BULLETIN No. 9 REVISED 1950

AL.1323 c.2

Farmstead Planning
AND BEAUTIFICATION

Minister of Agriculture
HON. D. A. URE

ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

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FARMSTEAD PLANNING

AND

BEAUTIFICATION

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

Issued by Direction of
HON. D. A. URE,
Minister of Agriculture

FOREWORD

Farmstead Planning and Beautifying the Home Grounds

THE BEAUTY AND DESIGN of our country farmsteads reveal the culture, stability and prosperity of our rural communities. It is desirable that a keener personal interest and pride in our rural homes and their surroundings be promoted.

It is most gratifying to the Department of Agriculture to learn of the effort being made by farmers to improve their farmsteads, to remodel and modernize buildings and the home in the interest of efficiency and comfort. The opportunity of planning a country home, and the planting of windbreaks, ornamental shrubbery, etc., comes to most of us only once in a lifetime. This opportunity, when taken, may become a living monument of the highest concept of our country homes and an inspiration to succeeding generations.

The pioneering farmers of the Province have been fascinated by the thought of bringing under cultivation large areas of virgin land to provide the wherewithal to establish homes. The facination of Agriculture in the future must eminate in no small measure from attractive well designed and well equipped farms and homes in keeping with the great importance of the Agricultural industry in our national life.

It is the hope of the Alberta Department of Agriculture that the publishing of this bulletin, which incorporates the knowledge and experience of many, and the life work of some, may contribute to the appearance, comfort and convenience of Alberta's farm homes.

O. S. LONGMAN,
Deputy Minister.

FARMSTEAD PLANNING

A NUMBER OF FARMS may be found in almost every section of Alberta where forethought and careful planning have secured a high degree of convenience, comfort and beauty. The farm home owner enjoys a greater opportunity for beautifying his home than his city neighour, for he, as a rule, has greater scope and natural beauty to utilize. In many of our country homes may be found the most wholesome forms of domestic life yet attained. Almost everywhere we look we see fresh evidence of the desire for beautiful surroundings that is now sweeping the country. Home improvement is a venture in self expression. Is it not true that we are judged largely by what is seen upon approaching our homes? Are you satisfied with the appraisal of your character that your home surroundings depict?

Modern conditions have greatly changed since pioneer days. Market towns have sprung up. Highways, schools and in some cases, telephone and power lines have been established, often leaving the pioneer farmstead set-up entirely inadequate for present requirements. As old buildings need replacing, farmers in large numbers are concerned with improving their home surroundings, or, in some cases with establishing a new site entirely.

As a rule, establishing a home on the land is undertaken but once in a lifetime. Few have had previous experience in so important an undertaking. Many are deterred because they do not feel entirely competent alone in planning and planting where their mistakes may continue for generations to come. It is hoped, therefore, that farmers will find in this bulletin the essential information they seek to enable them to proceed with confidence in their farm and home improvement project.

There are certain far-reaching advantages in making one's own plans. The owner knows best, all the special conditions and circumstances of his farm and business. He realizes also the personal preferences of the family unit. He can better visualize how his place will look when completed, and will take more enthusiastic and prideful interest in working out a plan of his own making.

In view of the permanence of buildings, wells and tree plantings, it is of utmost importance that the common mistakes of haphazard development be avoided, and that labour saving, economy and lasting satisfaction be achieved. Observation has shown that the more common mistakes in the past have been, the selecting of sites with poor drainage or with an inadequate supply of good water, inconvenient and unsightly arrangement of buildings and yards, too complete clearing off of native trees, and new plantings put at the wrong places. Good planning takes the long-term view and provides for the finished pattern in the years to come.

FARMSTEAD DEFINED

The farmstead is the area occupied by the buildings together with the yards and facilities immediately surrounding and adjacent to them. It becomes the *headquarters* of the whole farm enterprise.

THE SITE

On most farms, the site is already established by reason of permanent buildings, wells or other fixtures not easily moved. If the drainage and water supply on your farmstead are satisfactory, you are fortunate indeed. Most established farmsteads, however, could be improved as to the arrangement of some of the buildings and yards for greater convenience or better appearance.

Where a new site is required, good drainage is of paramount importance. An ideal surface contour would be like an inverted saucer to shed water in every direction with the house and the well on the highest ground. The next important consideration is the assurance of an adequate supply of good water. If these essential features cannot be obtained on a site of your first choice it would be better to try another site before further expense is incurred. Proximity to the highway, to telephone or power lines or other community facilities are also important considerations. Most farm people find interest in a view of the friendly road.

Much can be done by way of arranging the fields of the farm in such a manner as to render them easily accessible to the farmstead whether located at the corner of the farm land or midway along the road. Figures I, II, III and IV, on pages 6 and 7, illustrate various possibilities in this respect. Live stock may in each case have free passage from any field through a permanent pasture corridor to the farmstead.

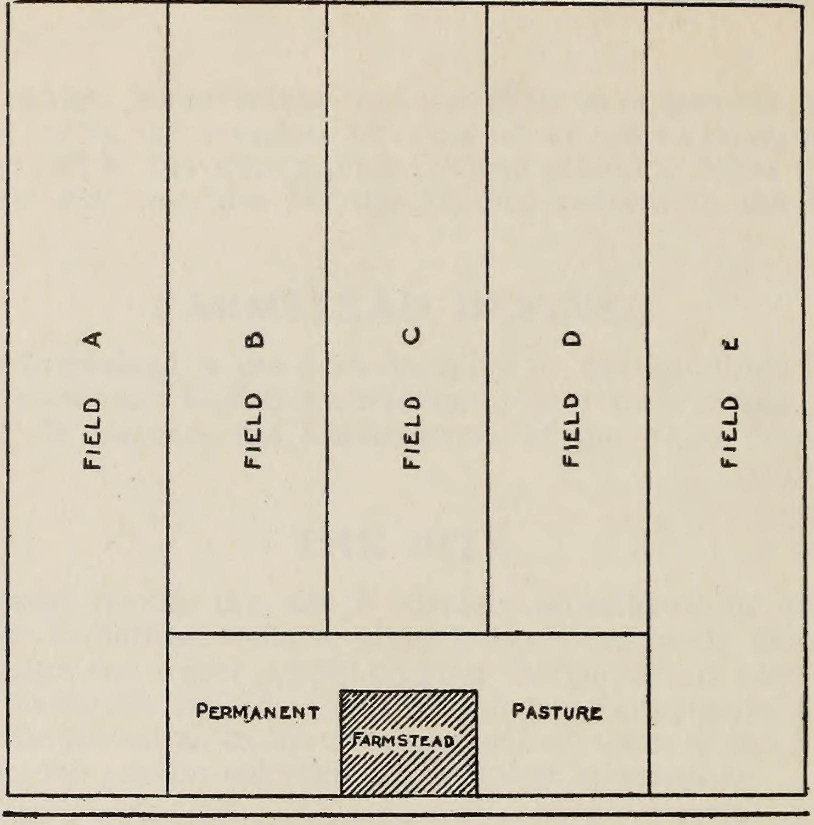

Figure I—Showing convenient arrangement of the fields of a square farm in relation to a farmstead site located *midway* along the road.

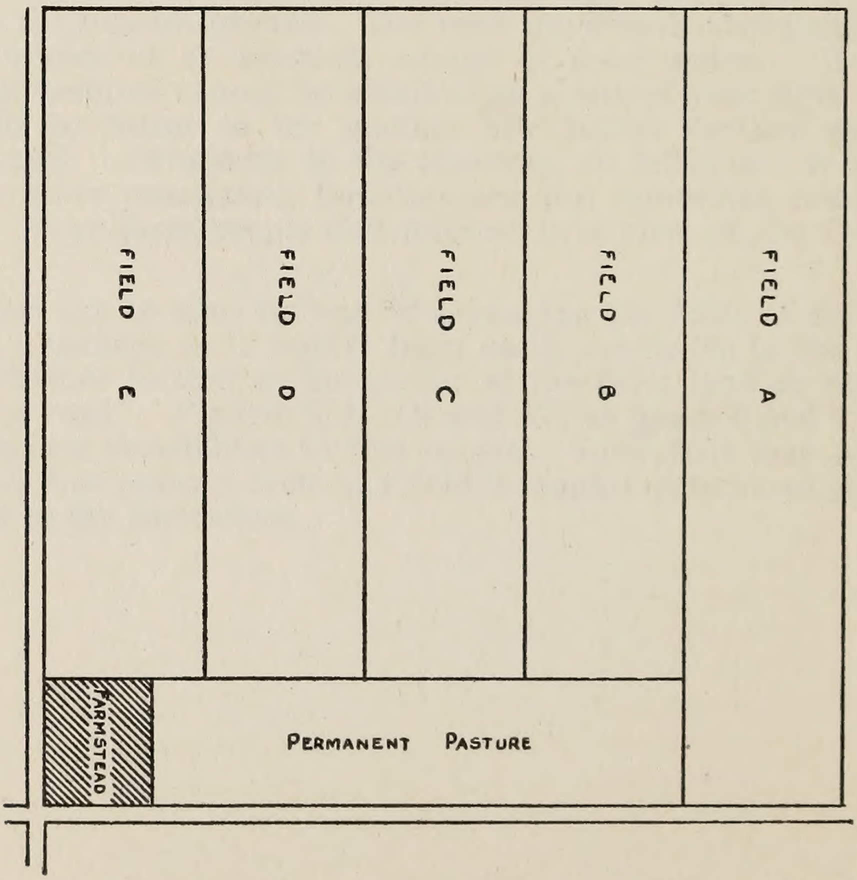

Figure II—A possible arrangement of fields on a square farm where the farmstead is located at a *corner* of the farm.

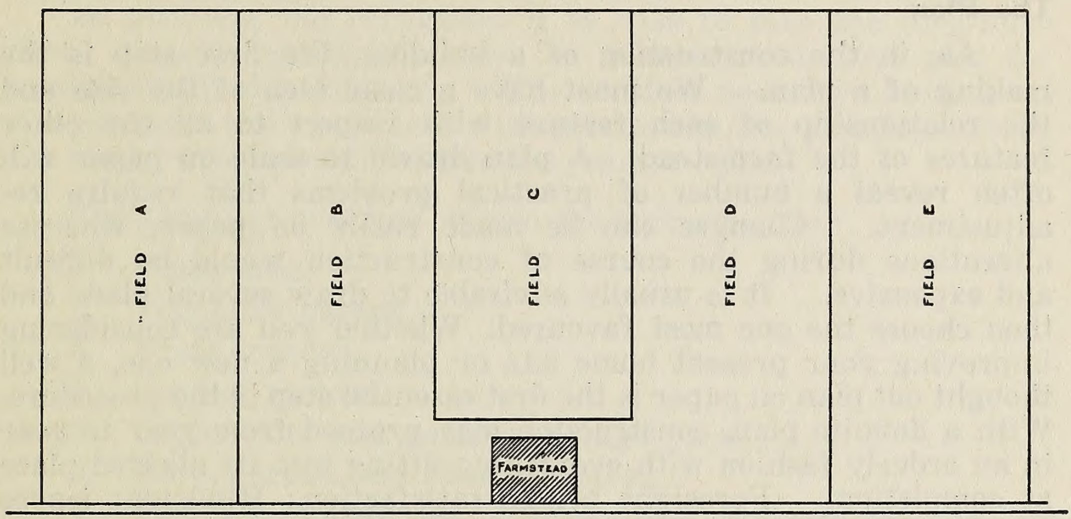

FIGURE III—A suggested arrangement of fields and farmstead for a half-section farm.

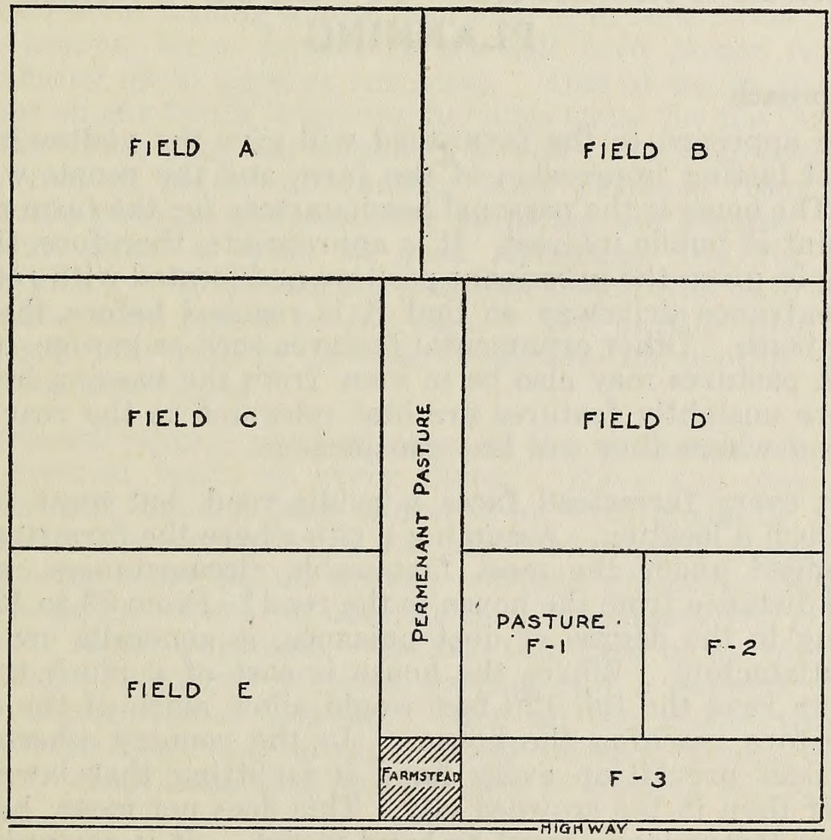

FIGURE IV—An arrangement of fields for a section farm with three small pastures near the farmstead, and a permanent pasture corridor to the larger fields.

PART I — PLANNING THE FARMSTEAD

The Plan

As, in the construction of a building, the first step is the making of a plan. We must have a clear idea of the size and the relationship of each feature with respect to all the other features of the farmstead. A plan drawn to scale on paper will often reveal a number of practical problems that require re-adjustment. Changes can be made easily on paper, whereas alterations during the course of construction would be difficult and expensive. It is usually advisable to draw several plans and then choose the one most favoured. Whether you are considering improving your present home site or planning a new one, a well thought out plan on paper is the first essential step in the procedure. With a definite plan, construction may proceed from year to year in an orderly fashion with everything fitting into its allotted place at completion. Foresight brings satisfaction: Hindsight leaves regret. Good luck to you in your great venture.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF GOOD FARMSTEAD PLANNING

The Approach

The approach to the farmstead will give the visitor his first and most lasting impression of the farm and the people who live there. The home is the personal headquarters for the farm and the focal point of public interest. It is appropriate, therefore, that the dwelling be given the prominent position and located with reference to the entrance driveway so that it is reached before the barns and hog pens. Other ornamental features such as garden, orchard or green pastures may also be in view from the passing highway. The more unsightly features are best relegated to the rear of the farmstead where they are less conspicuous.

Not every farmstead faces a public road, but most farmers favour such a location. Assuming a site where the farmstead may be arranged under the most favourable circumstances, what is an ideal distance from the house to the road? From 75 to 120 feet, according to the degree of dust nuisance, is generally considered most satisfactory. Where the house is east of a much travelled and dusty road the full 120 feet would allow much of the dust to settle before reaching the house. In the country where large, open spaces prevail on every hand it is fitting that lawn areas be larger than in the crowded city. This does not mean, however, that these larger lawns must be hand mown. It is suggested that the farm lawn be so arranged that it may be mown easily with the farm mower.

Farmstead Facilities and Area Required

In planning the farmstead it is wise to take the long-term view. Provide space, not only for present needs, but also for possible future development. This becomes necessary because we will surround the whole area with permanent tree plantings which will render expansion difficult in the years to come.

The facilities required within the farmstead are:

1. Home area.
2. Vegetable garden.
3. Fruit orchard.
4. Poultry pasture.
5. Implements and general storage yard.
6. Barn, corrals and feed yard area.
7. Two alternating hog pastures and perhaps an area for sheep.
8. A live stock pasture.

The area required for each of these facilities will average over a half-acre, making a total land area of at least five acres for a quarter section farm. Larger farms will need larger farmstead areas ranging up to eight or ten acres. One of the most common handicaps on our farms is leaving too little space for the farmstead. On farms where pigs are raised, it is well to provide enough hog pasture area to permit alternating these pastures from year to year for the purpose of controlling parasites and disease. Several acres may often be used to good advantage for pig rearing pastures alone. Chick rearing pastures should also be alternated, and for the same reason as for pigs. The poultry yard will be surrounded with poultry netting to confine all poultry to their special area at all times.

A general storage yard adjacent to the implement shed is one of the greatest needs of every farm. Have you ever seen a farmstead that has not been cluttered up with unsightly accumulations? In this storage yard you may hide wagon racks, lumber piles, fencing material, oil drums, portable granaries, junk piles and the usual assortment of obsolete farm machinery you may wish to keep for repair purposes. Seclude this yard by surrounding it with a dense hedge-row of trees, leaving only a gateway opening at some inconspicuous location. Then all the visible yards and home surroundings may always appear orderly, prosperous, and attractive. Such a secluded storage yard is a grand institution for any farm.

The farm yard (or courtyard) comprises the area between the lawn and the barns or other farm buildings. It is the hub of almost all traffic within the farmstead. Never allow it to become cluttered up with farm implements or other obstructions. Keep it clean and tidy in every respect. Nothing adds more to the appearance of good farm management than a clean, neat farm yard.

Vegetable gardens are at their best when half of the area is summer fallowed each year. Will you require an orchard area? Sure you can grow fruit!—all you can use—in any part of the Province where cereal crops are successfully grown. Crabapples, plums, raspberries, currants, gooseberries and strawberries are being grown with success many hundreds of miles north of Edmonton. Where shelterbelt protection is provided and the recommended hardy varieties of fruit are planted, followed by faithful cultivation and pruning, you may enjoy abundant fruit of your own growing. Many are doing it now. Almost every farm will be growing their own fruit when it is realized how well and how readily it can be done. Place in the orchard area also all perennial vegetables like asparagus, winter onions and rhubarb so as to leave the whole of the vegetable garden area free for plowing.

Orchards require tree protection not only against prevailing winds, but also against hot sunshine. Tree shelter along the south side of the orchard will retard early spring growth and bloom that might otherwise be damaged by late spring frost. The cool, moist soil north of a shelterbelt also favours abundant fruiting.

You will make no mistake in providing from five to eight or even ten acres for your farmstead enclosure. Should you not require all of the area at present, seed down the surplus land to alfalfa or grass pasture until such time as it is required for some more essential use.

Wind Influence

There are two separate phases of wind influence affecting our planning—our cold winter winds and our summer prevailing winds. Since our cold winter winds come largely from the north and west, we will require our heavy shelter belts along the west and north sides of the farmstead. Allow for a strip of at least sixty feet along these two sides and half this width along the east and south sides for tree planting outside of the proposed farmstead area.

But our prevailing summer winds are largely from the southwest. This will influence the locations of the barnyard and hog pens with respect to the house. So far as possible these facilities should be located so that the prevailing summer winds will waft unpleasant odours away from the dwelling. Keeping these general principles in mind, no matter what point of the compass the farmstead is facing the road, will assist each farmer in planning his farmstead arrangement according to his particular location or circumstances.

Arrangement of Facilities

The arrangement of the various facilities is perhaps the most important phase of farmstead planning. The chief objective is to save labour. Beautification may, to a large extent, be superimposed after a satisfactory arrangement has been decided upon. Experience has pointed the way toward two or three basic types of farmstead plans. Figure V, page 12, shows six Charts of variations of basic Plan A, which is well adapted for an area wider along the road than its depth away from the road. Charts 2, 4 and 6 of this basic plan are merely reversals of Charts 1, 3 and 5 respectively. The arrows from house to barnyard indicate the general direction desired for your summer prevailing winds. It will be noticed also that there are differences in the amount of "off-set" between the home area and the farm yard area—Charts 5 and 6 having the greatest amount of off-set. This greater off-set is desirable where the farmstead faces east or north to keep barnyard odours from the house. Dotted lines on the Charts indicate the location of the main driveway from road to farm yard and on to the fields.

Turn now to Figure VI, page 13, showing six Charts of variations of basic Plan B. This type of plan is well adapted where the whole farmstead area is square or narrower along the road than its depth from the road. It will be seen in Figure VI that Chart 2 is a reversal of Chart 1. While the remaining Charts suggest alternative arrangements each of which may also be reversed according to direction of wind or the direction they may face.

In all these twelve Charts in Figures V and VI, pages 12 and 13, will be found most of the principles of good farmstead arrangement:—The public appoach towards the house; the more decorative features of the farmstead located along the road; the facilities usually administered by the women such as garden, orchard and poultry conveniently located near the house, with the farm facilities centralizing around the farm yard; and the short direct driveway and lane from road through farm yard to the fields.

No attempt has been made in any of these Charts in Figures V and VI to differentiate in the size of the various subdivisions. They are intended merely to suggest a number of possible arrangements of facilities with relation to each other. In planning your own farmstead, after determining the *arrangement* best adapted to your particular conditions, the *size* of each subdivision may then be modified according to the needs of each facility. Endeavour, however, to maintain a rectangular form for the outside borders of the whole farmstead enclosure where possible.

Buildings—

On some farms we find as many as twenty or more buildings scattered about the farmstead. Most of them are small. Such a farm gives the impression that there has been little forethought taken. Many small buildings are not economical to build in com-

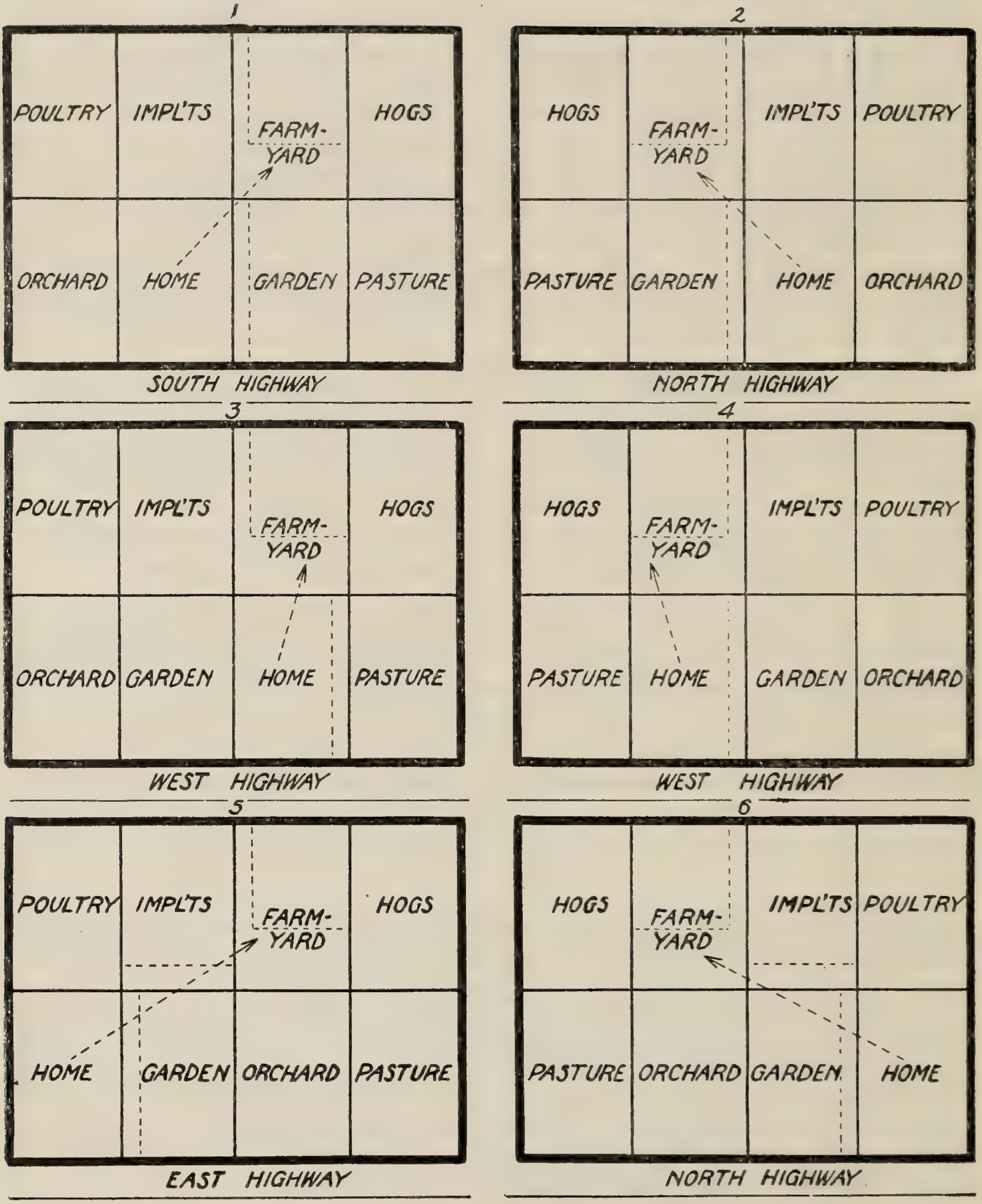

FIGURE V—**Basic Plan A.** Showing six Charts of variations in arrangement of facilities for the farmstead, adapted for *broad but shallow* farmstead areas as viewed from the road.

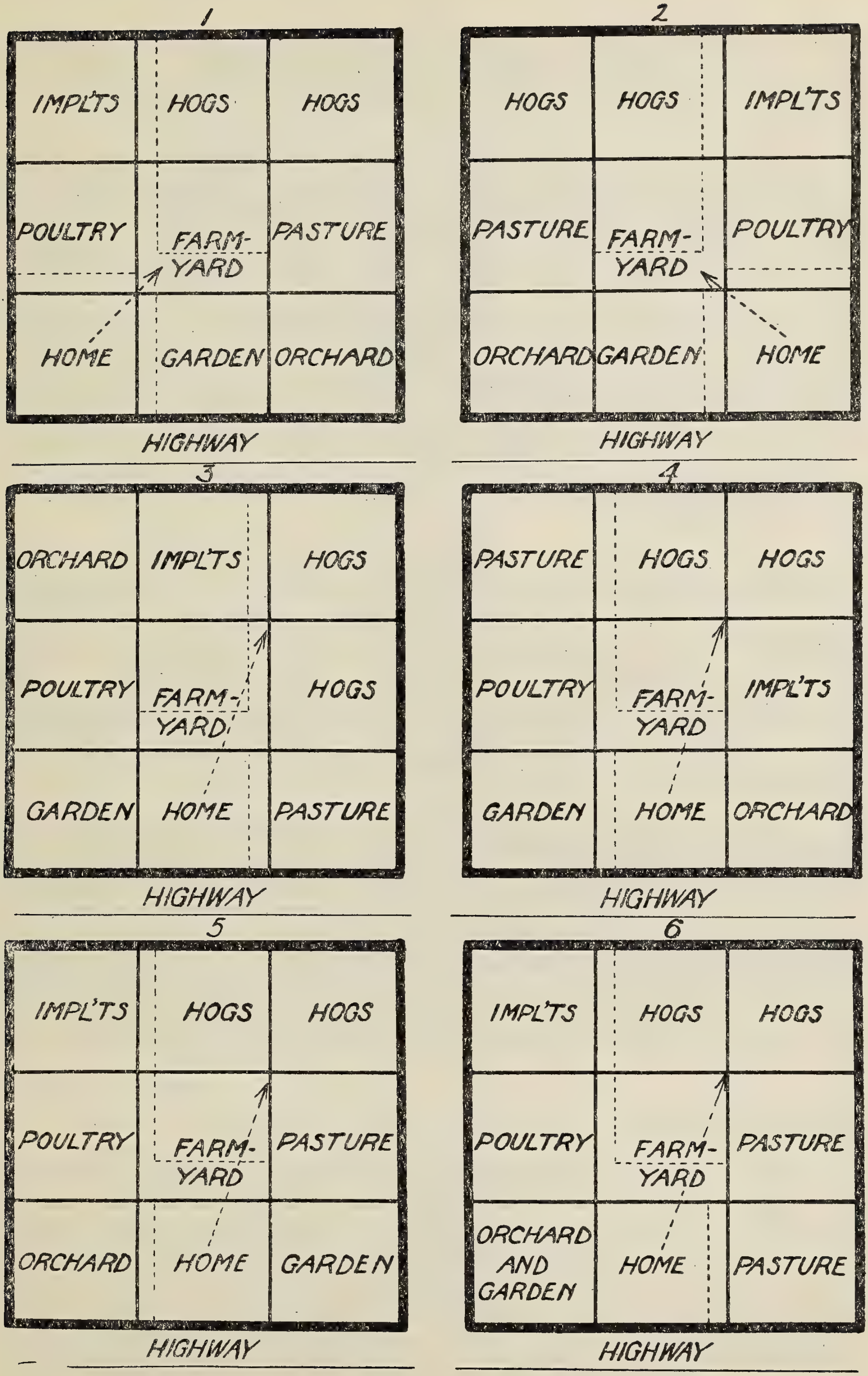

Figure VI—Basic Plan B. Showing variations in arrangement of facilities for the farmstead that is narrower along the road than its depth from the road.

parison with the room they provide. They form an unnecessary fire hazard and require more labour in doing chores. Good planning will strive toward the consolidation of buildings into fewer units.

Most farms require about four major buildings—house, barn, hog house and implement shed. Some grain storage can be provided at the barn and hog house. Certain farmers like to have one large stationary granary, others prefer portable granaries. Portable granaries, when not in use, could be lined up systematically in the screened-in general storage yard where they will be, for the most part, out of sight and protected. Such minor buildings as pumphouse, ice house and dairy cooling room could well be combined. Likewise the garage for car, farm tractor, truck, shop and tool house could also be combined and heated in one unit. Or some of these facilities could be included with the implement shed. As will be seen on the cover of this bulletin a few substantial buildings on the farmstead look orderly, businesslike and attractive.

Buildings should be far enough apart for reasonable safety from fire, and yet close enough for convenience. A recommended distance from house to barn is 150 feet. The hog house is best a little further from the house. Fire insurance companies like to have the major buildings, which carry heavy investments, 100 feet or more apart. Where buildings are closer than this, special precaution should be taken against fire hazards. Most people want the garage quite convenient to the house and the poultry house also not too distant.

It is preferable to have the large doors of the implement shed open to a sheltered side,—south or east. Poultry houses will be placed with the long wall of windows to the south. Barnyards provide best shelter for live stock when placed south or east of the barn. While we prefer the house facing the public highway, the walks from both front and kitchen entrances lead best toward the driveway, which will also be along the more sheltered side of the house. For admitting light from both sides of a long building and for preservation of shingles it is best to place the long axis north and south.

Water Supply

It is a truism that the place for the well is where water may be found. Yet in most cases water may be had almost as readily where the well is most convenient as at some more distant point. Water in the ground occurs usually in wide sheets of porous soil strata rather than in hose-like streamlets. There are many cases where farmers have carried water uphill from a distant well for many years before they discovered that all this while a good well could have been had at the most convenient location. Where water is to be piped to the points where it will be used, the distance for piping and sanitation are the chief considerations. Where a water system can be installed, it is by far the most economical in the long run*. But where water must be carried to the house it is important that the well be convenient. Where wells are expensive and only one well may be had on the farmstead, a location for the well just off the line of traffic from house to barn, is suggested as the best compromise. Water may thus be pumped directly to the water trough in the farm yard, and yet be handy enough to the house. By providing a rust-proof water tank in the kitchen, the men folk can keep it replenished on their regular trips from the barn to the house as they pass the pumphouse where the empty water-pails are kept. Where two wells are practical, having one near the house and the other between the barn and hog house would be ideal. Water could then be pumped directly to the buildings. To prevent contamination the well must be well banked, and the surrounding area kept well drained for quick surface run-off at all times.

Entrance Driveway and Lane to Fields

Strive to have the main entrance driveway as short and direct as practicable, leading past the more sheltered side of the house to the farm yard. This driveway will accommodate the heavy farm traffic and is best about 50 feet or more from the house. Passenger traffic, however, may approach the house by a pleasantly curving branch driveway extending to the garage and forming a "turn around." A diameter of 60 feet is required for easy turning of auto vehicles. Leave ample room for the parking of visitors' cars without obstructing free circulation of traffic. The branch driveway will also serve for delivering fuel and vegetables to the house basement without the need of driving over the lawn with heavy loads. It is most convenient if the main entrance driveway is not fenced separate from the lawn area. Loose live stock may be driven from the farm yard to the road, either through the live stock pasture or by way of a separate lane provided for that purpose. The field lane will lead from the farm yard past the implement yard to the fields beyond.

Detail of Plans

Having discussed the main principle of farmstead planning, let us see how these principles are applied in the plans presented in this bulletin. Figure VII, on the centre page 24, shows in detail Basic Plan A (1) of Figure V, except that the garden and orchard areas are reversed. It will be observed that the boundaries of some of the subdivisions have been shifted to enlarge some areas and reduce others according to the requirements of each facility on this particular farm. The pastures have also been enlarged by extending the outside boundary toward the right. This same plan is depicted in perspective on the cover of this bulletin indicating how such a plan will appear when completed on the land.

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* See Bulletin: "Modernizing Farm Homes" — (Water Supply and Sewage Disposal), from Saskatchewan Department of Reconstruction and Rehibilitation, Regina, Sask.

In Figure VII, also, the small cross-section blocks are 30 feet or 10 yards square. It will be seen, therefore, that the house is about 100 feet from the roadway. The open turf area is of appropriate size for a farm lawn, consisting of about 1,000 square yards, with no obstructions for mowing with the field mower. The main entrance driveway proceeds directly to the farm yard with a branch curving near the house to form a "turn around" and ample parking area. The garage is handy to the house. Though the implement shed is shown somewhat close to the house, it at least has the virtues of convenience and of economy of building. The orchard, garden and poultry house are all handy to the dwelling and ample in size to serve home needs. The well is conveniently located, and yet protected from the trampling of live stock. The general storage yard is well screened against public view. A feed stack between corral and feed lot makes light work of supplying roughage to live stock. The farm yard forms the hub of the whole assembly. The hog house is located beyond the barn not too far from the well, but away from summer prevailing winds. There is room for alternating both the hog and the poultry pastures. The live stock pasture along the road could serve as a public "show window" for high class breeding stock. Provision is made for a separate stock lane from farm yard to road: There is no need, therefore, for cross fencing between orchard, lawn, and garden.

Along the west and north sides of the farmstead may be seen the heavy shelterbelt protection against the cold winter winds. The outside hedge-row has overgrown a fence which requires no further fence posts after the original temporary ones decay. Tree rows are far enough apart to allow quick cultivation by tractor and field implements. Provision also is made for turning of the cultivator by fencing across the corners. Take another look at the outside cover for the attractive features of the plan. Yet almost any farm home with sound planning and appropriate planting may be made as pleasing with but little expense. Is it not a challenge to your enterprise and to your ingenuity?

In Figure VIII, page 18, the boundaries of the subdivisions have also been adjusted to the size requirements of a particular farm. This plan conforms also to most of the principles of good planning. We would suggest, however, that unless there is woodland along the west side to hold back the snow, the implement shed is too close to the west shelterbelt. It is recommended that shelterbelts be 100 feet from buildings to prevent snow accumulations around the buildings. There is some advantage in combining the garden and orchard into one area as shown in this plan where this is practicable.

Figure IX, page 19, shows in detail Basic Plan B (4), page 12, reversed for facing a north highway. It will be seen that a compromise has been made in this plan between shelter and view toward the north road from the house. The heavy three-row shelterbelt has been eliminated in favour of a single row which is considerably opened up for view directly in front of the house. In this plan the stock pastures have been extended away from the road to increase their size. Where the hog house is so far from the well it would be better to pipe the water where practicable or to provide a separate well for live stock.

In Figure X, page 20, we have a layout somewhere between the two basic plans already presented. This is of a corridor type through the centre from road to field. No off-set is required between the house and barn areas where a west road is faced. Here again we have the garden and orchard included in one large area. The garage is combined with the pump house. The stock drive could be more direct to the road if the gate on the south side of the stock pasture was moved to the west side of the same pasture. This plan has many acceptible features for a location where the farmstead faces a west road.

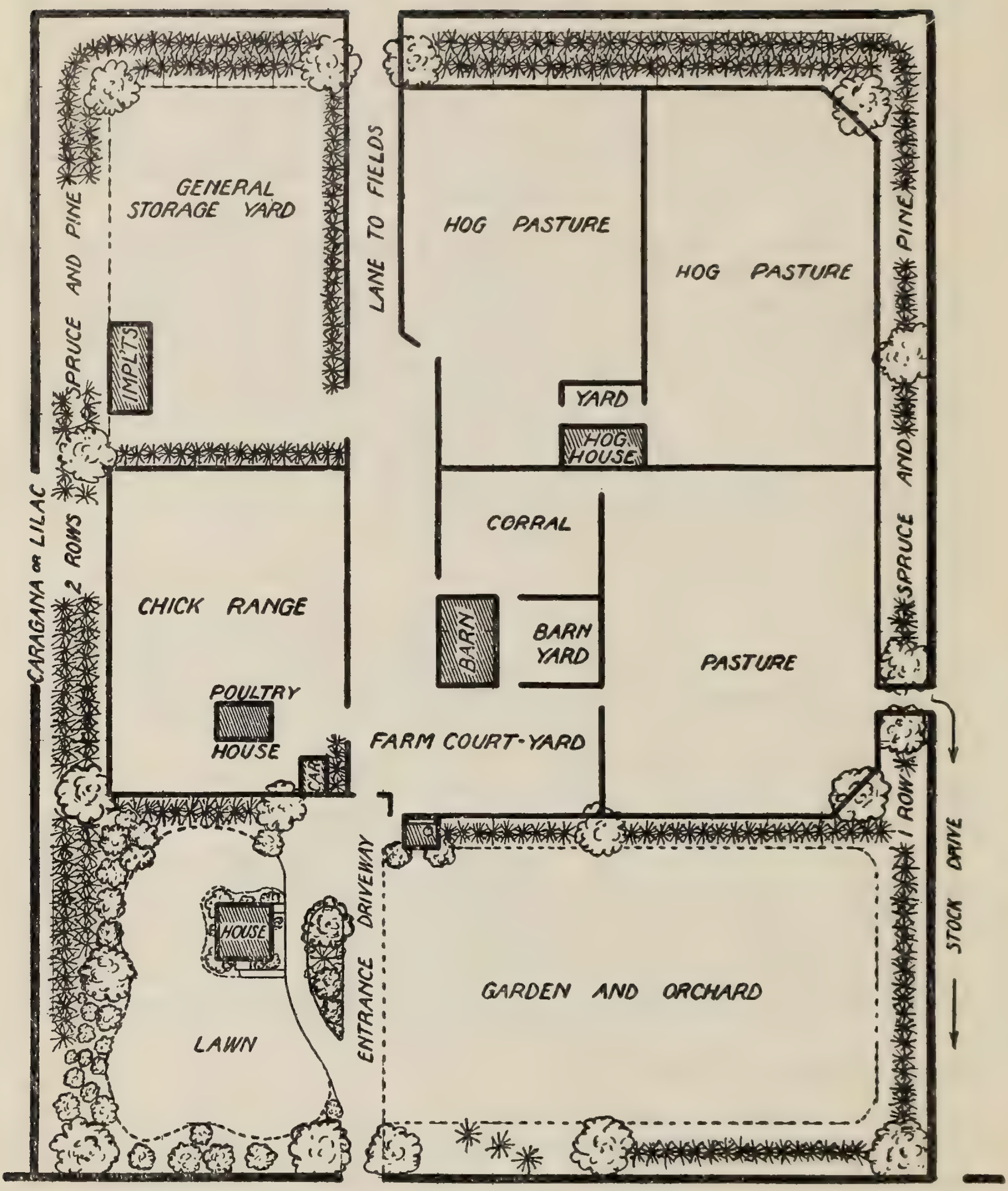
Improving Established Farmsteads

We become so familiar with our surroundings that we often fail to see the possibilities for improvement. Ask yourself earnestly, is everything as handy, as comfortable and as pleasing about your place as it could be made? Would it not be more economical in the long run to undertake improvements now than to continue putting up with your present inconveniences? The established farmer who wishes to improve his place would do well to prepare a plan of his farmstead and buildings for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of his plant, by changing the location of some of his facilities or equipment. Further trial plans for comparison will will often reveal how improvements could best be made. If your improvement project cannot be put into operation at once, it is still a good idea to prepare a five or ten-year accomplishment plan.

How to Make a Plan

The simplest method of drawing a plan to scale is to provide yourself with a sheet of cross-section paper, *i.e.*, paper that has been ruled into uniform squares such as shown in the detail plan on centre page 24 of this bulletin. Such sheets can either be home-made, or may be obtained from the Alberta Department of Agriculture. Sheets 10″ x 13″ ruled to half-inch squares are suitable. Such a sheet on the basis of 30 feet or 10 yards to the square would represent about 10 acres of land.

Draw your plans as viewed from the road—as the public would see it. Mark on your sheet a point to represent some fixed point on the land, preferably at a corner. Then measure, on the square,



(*Scale 40 yards to the inch*)

FIGURE VIII—Showing detail of Basic Plan B (1) on page 13.

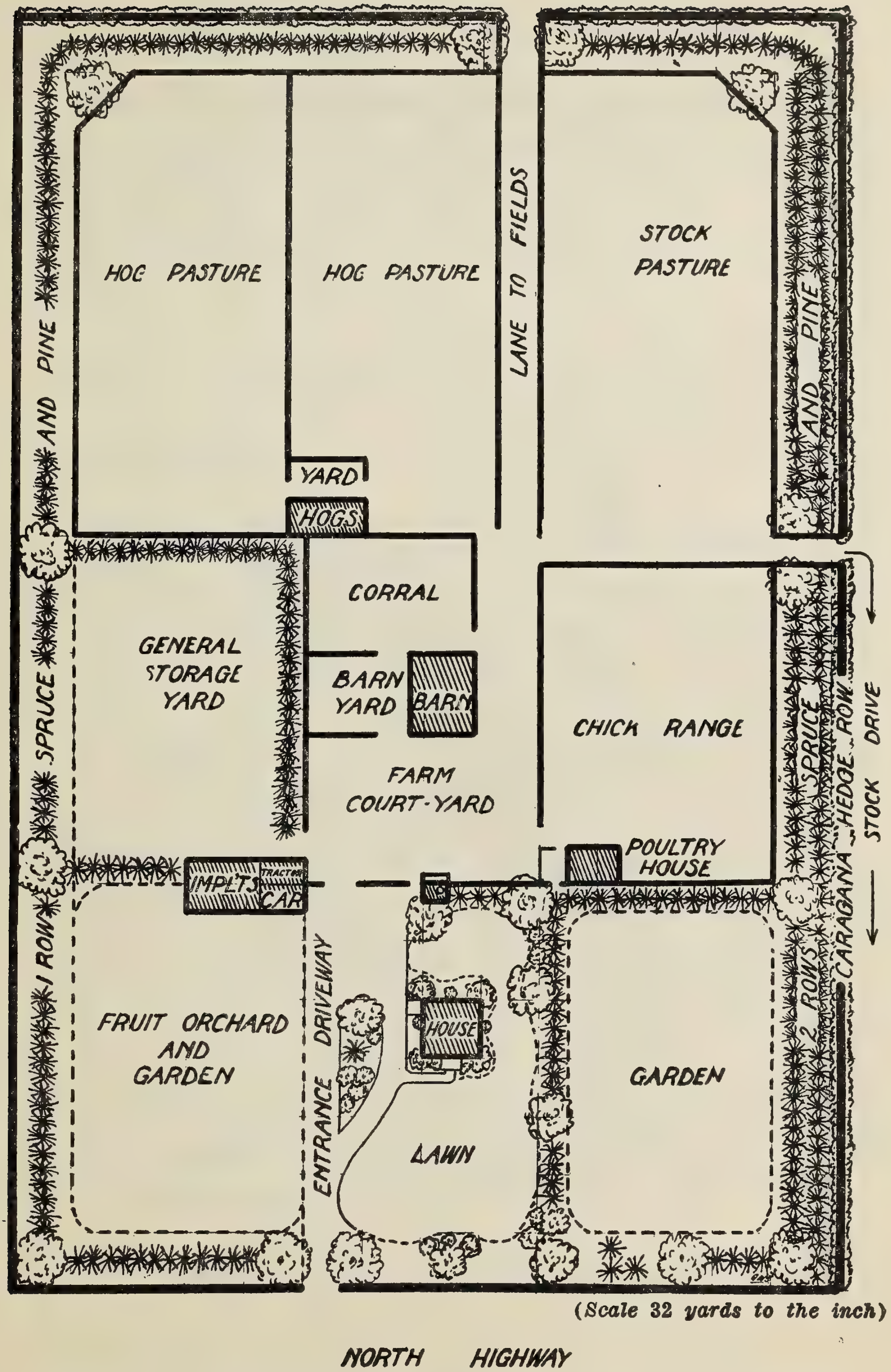
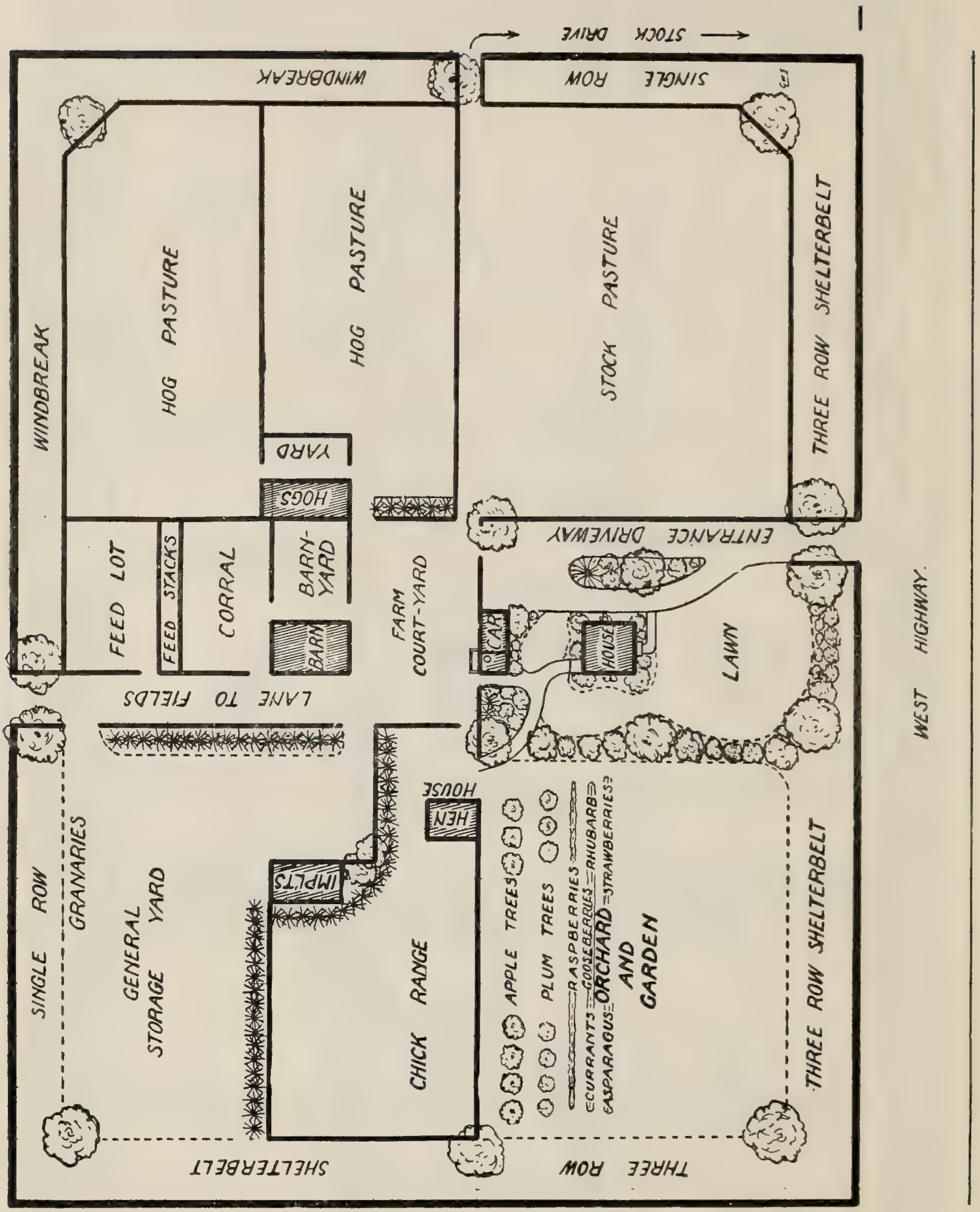


FIGURE IX—Showing in detail the reverse of Basic Plan B (4) on page 13.



(*Scale 40 yards to the inch*)

Figure X—Corridor type of Farmstead Layout.

from this fixed point on the land to such established buildings and well, etc., that cannot be moved and mark them on your plan to indicate their corresponding locations. Also indicate lightly such physical features as drainage courses, steep banks, etc., that might affect the locating of the various facilities. Some like to make the first trials for different arrangement of the areas with cardboard squares each labelled to represent one of the subdivisions of the farmstead. These may be shifted into a number of different trial arrangements until the most satisfactory pattern is discovered for your particular circumstances. Then develop your plan as nearly as you can in accordance with your idea of good farmstead planning.

The time spent in thinking, planning, recording and comparing trial arrangements before deciding on the final plan is the most important part and will largely determine the success of the whole project. A good design is obtained when it meets the special conditions and requirements of the farm and the personal life of the family.

Adjust the boundaries of the subdivisions and locate other buildings, driveways, lanes and gates. Do not expect the ideal in every respect. Compromises must be made in almost every plan. But be assured that any considered plan will be better than no plan at all. Try it, even if at first for your own amusement. Your trials may lead to amazingly satisfying results.

The Dual Gateway for Main Entrance

The general use of motor vehicles and tractors on the farm has created a demand for handy gates: Yet on most farms horse traffic must be provided for as well. In Figure XI, page 22, a dual gateway is designed for such double purpose. Here a pit gate which will automatically allow motor traffic to pass through and yet exclude live stock, is combined with a standard swing gate for horses. For the passage of wide farm implements the middle post could be set into a concrete block in the ground so that this post could be removed to provide 24 feet or more clearance. In such case of course the swing gate would consist of only one section.

The gateway in Figure XVI, page 23, is useful between house and farm yard. It is always closed to live stock yet always open to man. It is easily operated with the foot or elbows when both hands are occupied. Woven-wire fencing is used to prevent snow banks in winter. With the lower hinge slightly longer than the upper, the gate will always rest on either side of its swing.

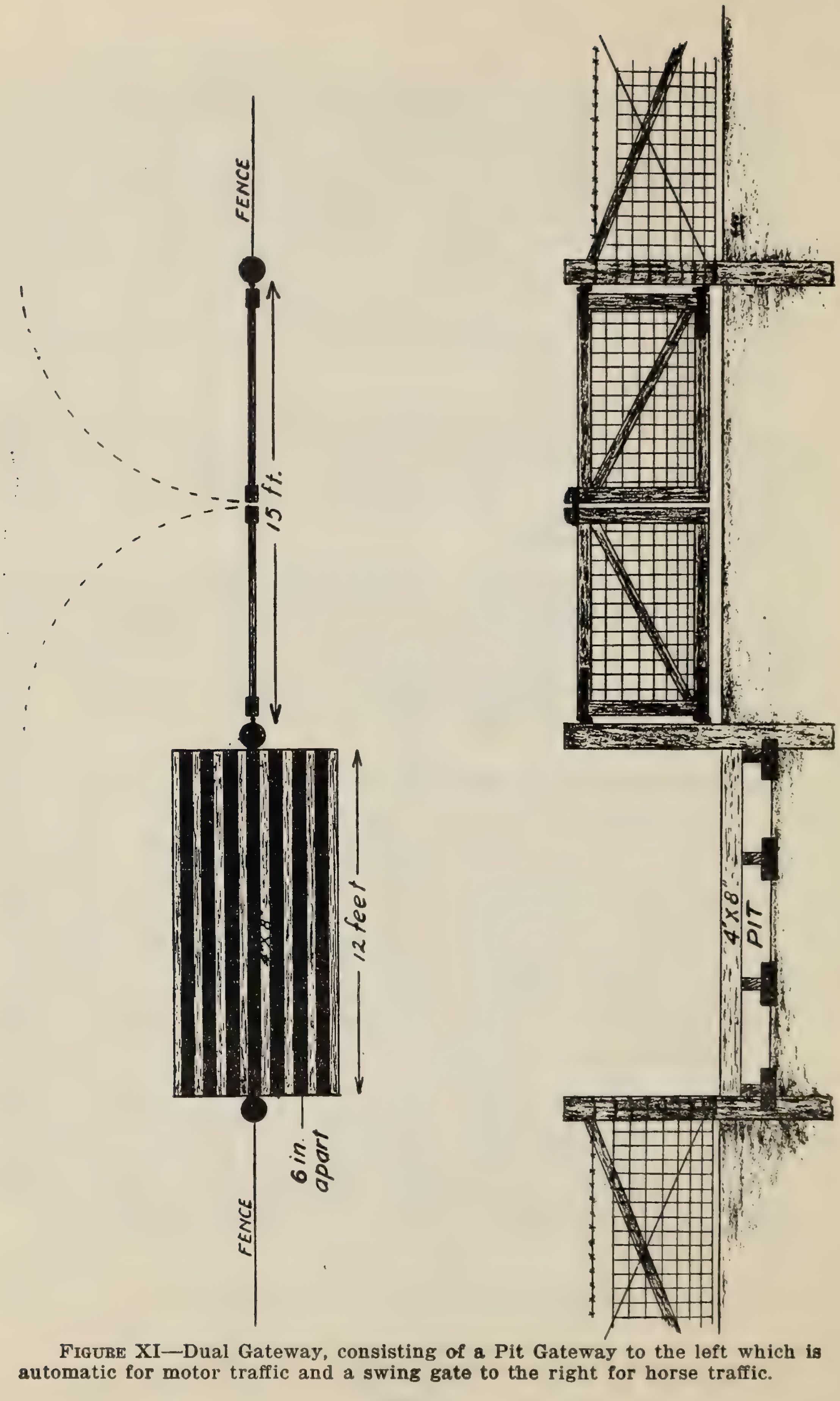


FIGURE XI—Dual Gateway, consisting of a Pit Gateway to the left which is automatic for motor traffic and a swing gate to the right for horse traffic.

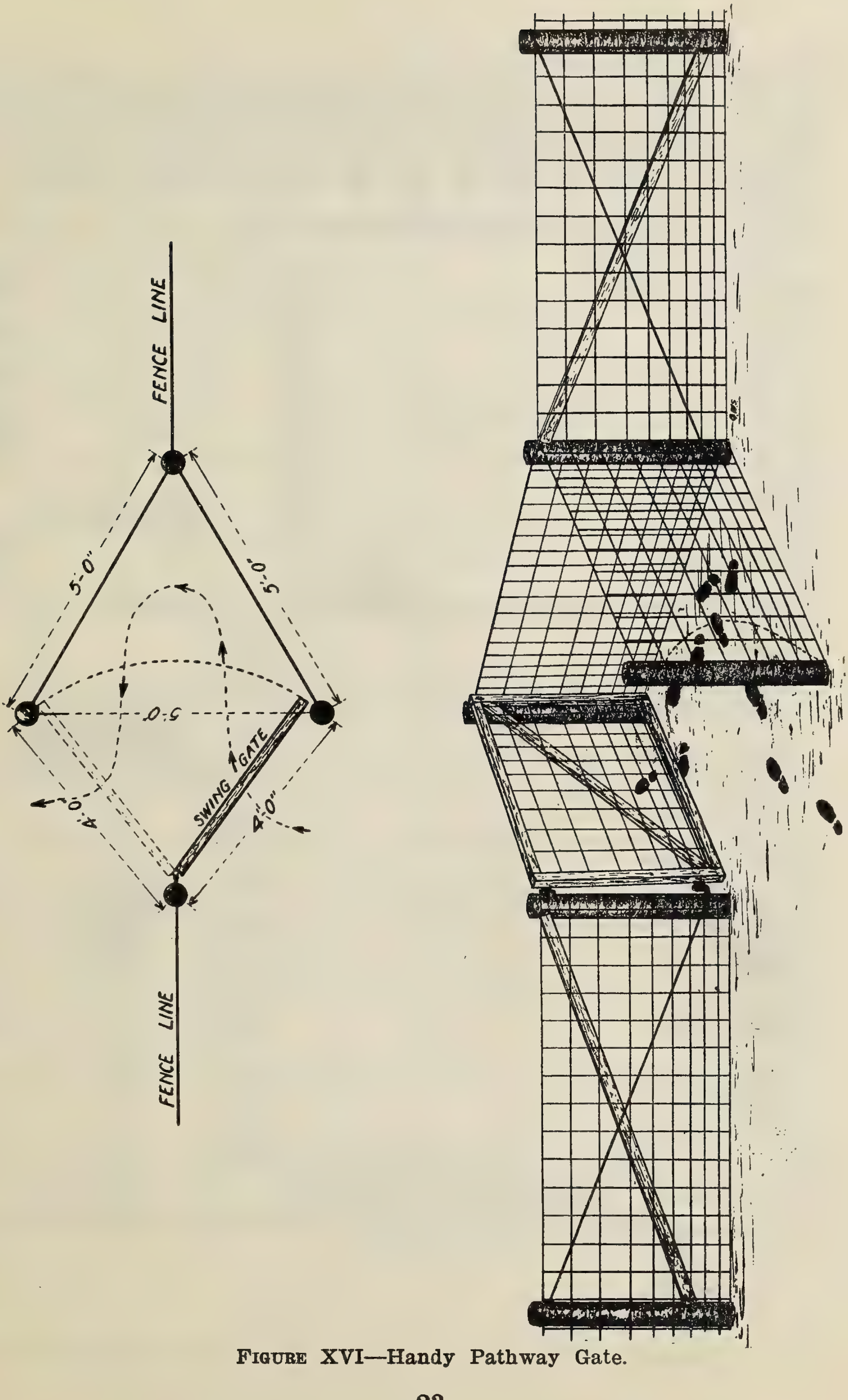


FIGURE XVI—Handy Pathway Gate.

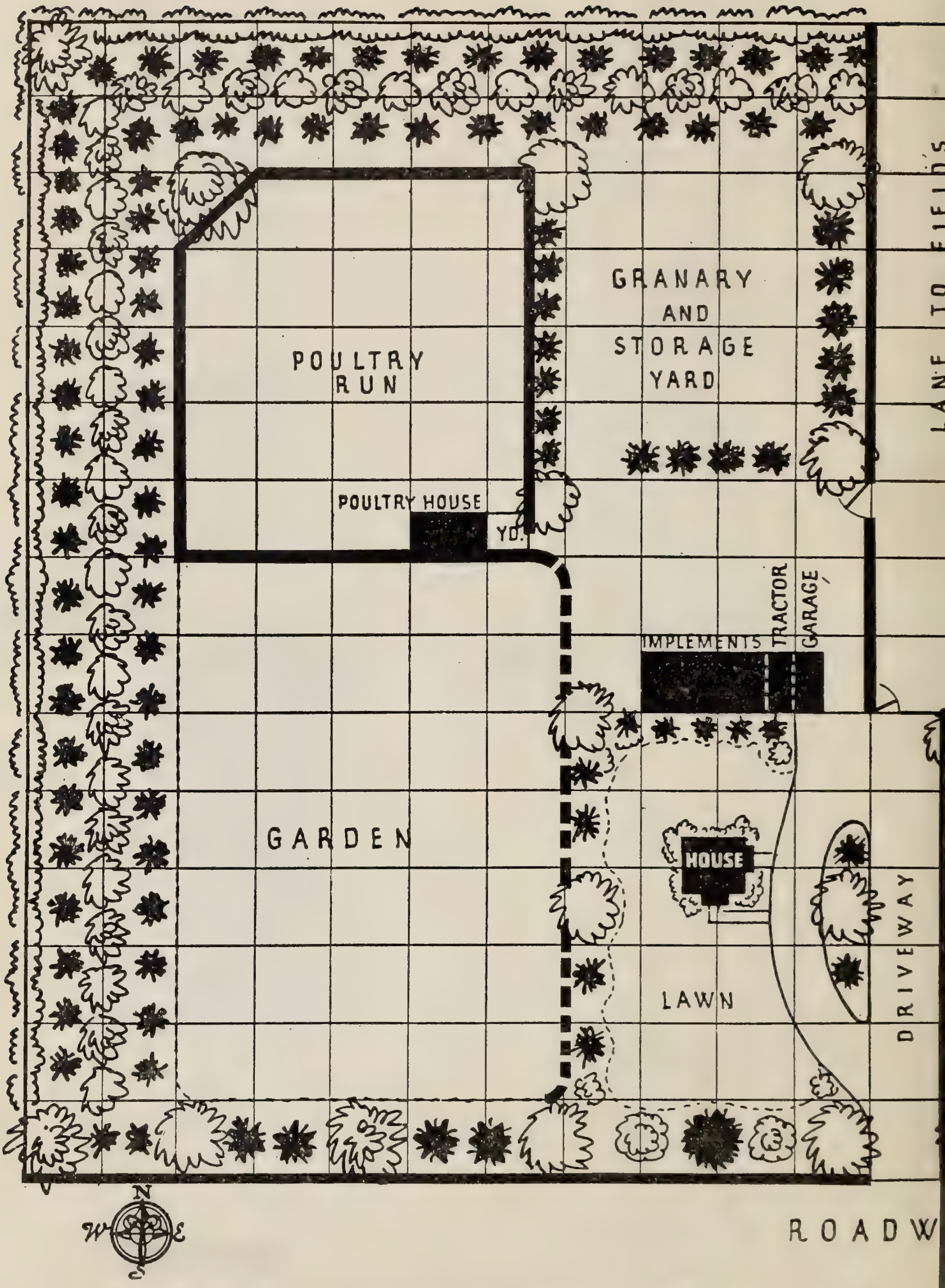
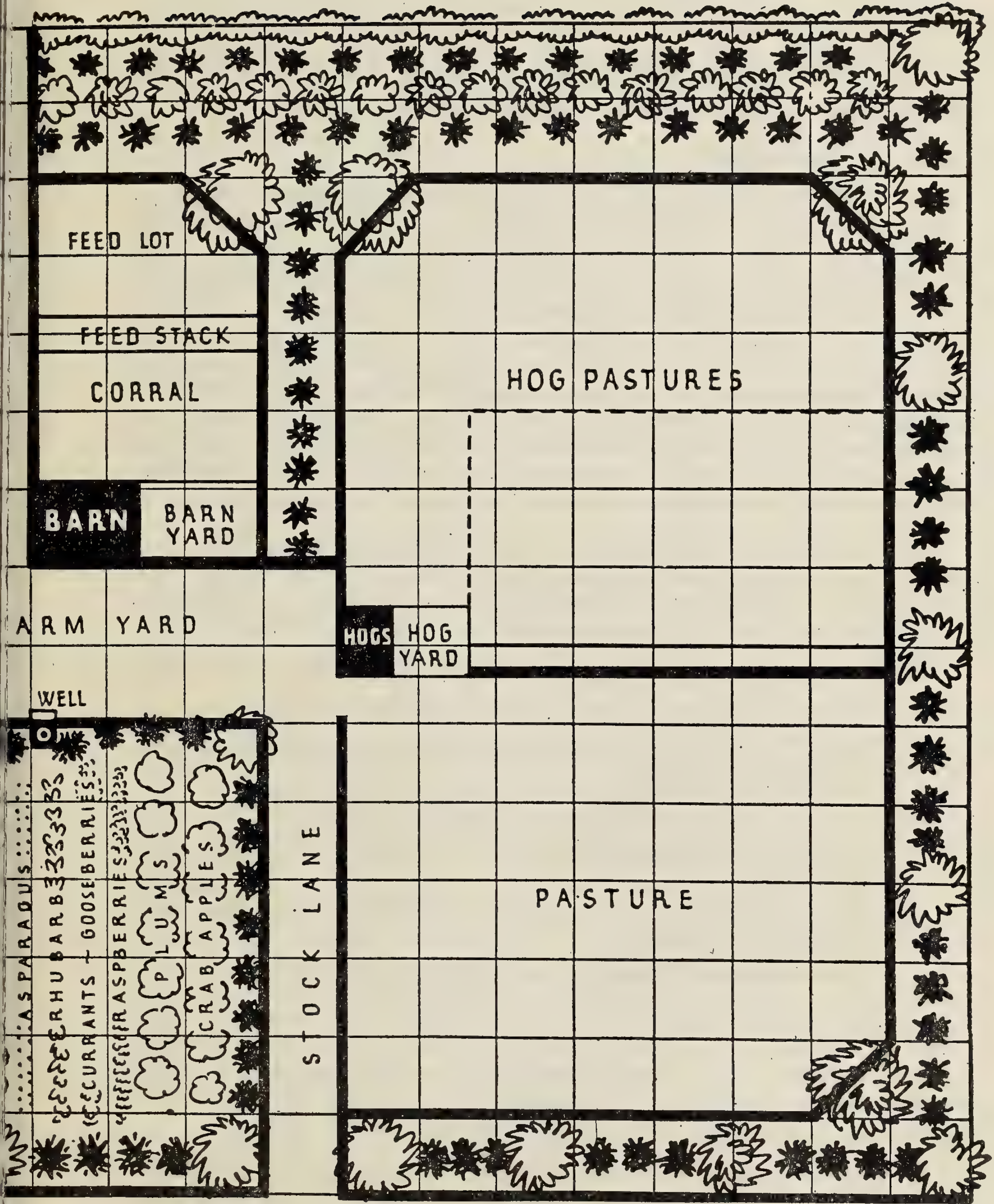


FIGURE VII—Showing detail of Basic Plan A (1) in Figure V, page 12.



See cover page of this bulletin showing this same plan as completed on the land.

PART II — BEAUTIFYING THE HOME GROUNDS

"The foolish man sees happiness only in the distance: The wise man grows it under his feet."—James Oppenheim.

The Farm Shelterbelt

Next to planning a good lay-out for the farmstead, there is perhaps no other project that will improve living conditions on the farm so much as the growing of a good shelterbelt. True, it requires foresight and diligent care for a few years to succeed, but the benefits for many years to come will far outweigh the effort required. Well grown shelterbelts check the wind and moderate the extremes of heat and cold. They help to accumulate moisture from melting snows, and check evaporation for better gardens, orchards and ornamental plantings. They encourage bird life, provide year-round beauty and comfort, and enhance the value of the property. In wooded country, the natural tree shelter could be preserved until such time as something better has been grown.

It is not difficult to succeed even on the bare prairie. In almost every district throughout the Province may be found shelterbelts that are a credit to those who grew them. The rules are few but exacting in their application. Here they are:

(1) Plant in the right place, surrounding the whole farmstead.

(2) Prepare the ground thoroughly before planting.

(3) Plant long-lived hardy kinds of trees in suitable association and spacing.

(4) Cultivate thoroughly and persistently after planting.

(5) Encourage and maintain a dense growth to exclude wind and light.

(6) Thin and prune only enough to maintain good form and vigour of growth.

(7) Fence against live stock and guard against fire damage.

To interpret these rules and apply them to your local conditions is the crucial task. Allowing encroachment of grass or weeds is courting failure, while clean persistent cultivation is one of the greatest success factors. But neglect in applying any one of the above rules will surely bring disappointment in the end.

Prepare a definite and complete plan of your tree planting programme before any of the work is started. You can then undertake a portion of it each year until the entire programme is completed. Leave a margin of at least 15 feet for encroachment of the trees and marginal cultivation. Keep your shelterbelt planting at least 100 feet from any buildings to hold snow drifts away. Next consider the kinds of trees you will grow, the number of rows you will plant, the distance apart of the rows, and the spacing of the trees within the rows.* Conditions vary greatly in different parts of the Province. Local conditions will govern your decision in these respects. Many farmers prefer to plant the rows wide enough apart so they can use their tractor implements for cultivating their shelterbelts. The dryer areas will not support as many trees to a given area as where there is more moisture. With wide spacing of trees, however, cultivation will be required for a longer period before the desired shading and its consequent cool and moist forest floor conditions are obtained. Evergreen trees such as spruce and pines are the nearest approach to the ideal for windbreaks. They provide shelter and beauty in winter as well as in summer. They have a wide adaptation to varied conditions in all parts of the Province where the soil is not too heavy or Alkaline. Green Ash, American Elm and Burr Oak are among the most suitable of our long-lived deciduous trees. There is an advantage in mixing the long-lived varieties in the same plantation to guard against the rapid spread or the disastrous effects of possible insect pests or plant disease. While our quick growing trees such as the poplars and willows have a place in providing quick shelter, fuel and fence posts, it would seem that they have been rather too largely used in mixed plantings to the detriment of the more valuable long-lived kinds. The ideal form for a shelterbelt planting is such that the trees on the windward side are low and rising higher toward the inner side of the belt to deflect the wind upward. (See Figures XII and XIII, page 28.)

On the wind swept prairie there is danger of snow drifting so deeply into the shelterbelt as to break down the trees before they become sturdy. In such locations it is best to provide a snow trap at a hundred feet beyond the main shelterbelt.

A minimum shelterbelt for the north and west sides of the farmstead is illustrated in Figure XIV, page 29. Where a woodlot is desired, further planting could be done outward to broaden the shelterbelt as illustrated in Figure XV, page 30. A number of prairie farmers with foresight are now establishing windbreak plantings around and across their fields for conservation purposes. The success of these efforts are being appraised with hopeful interest.

Pruning Young Trees in the Shelterbelt

The type of pruning that will produce the best development of trees and still provide an effective barrier to ground winds is to form a single trunk growth with all the side branches left on from the ground up. When such a dense canopy has been formed overhead that the lower side branches of the inside rows of trees die from want of light, then these dead branches may be lopped

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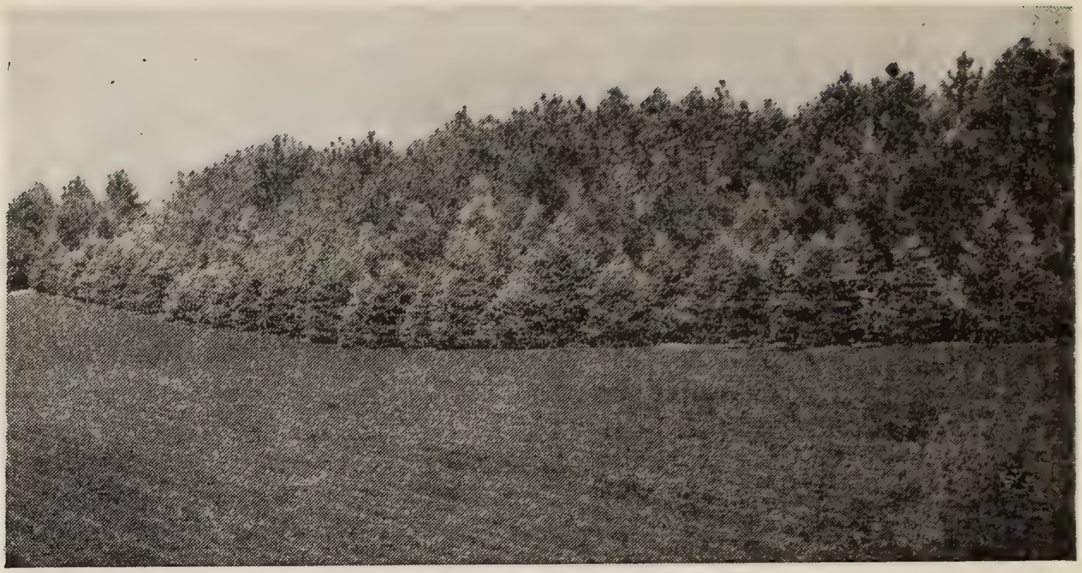
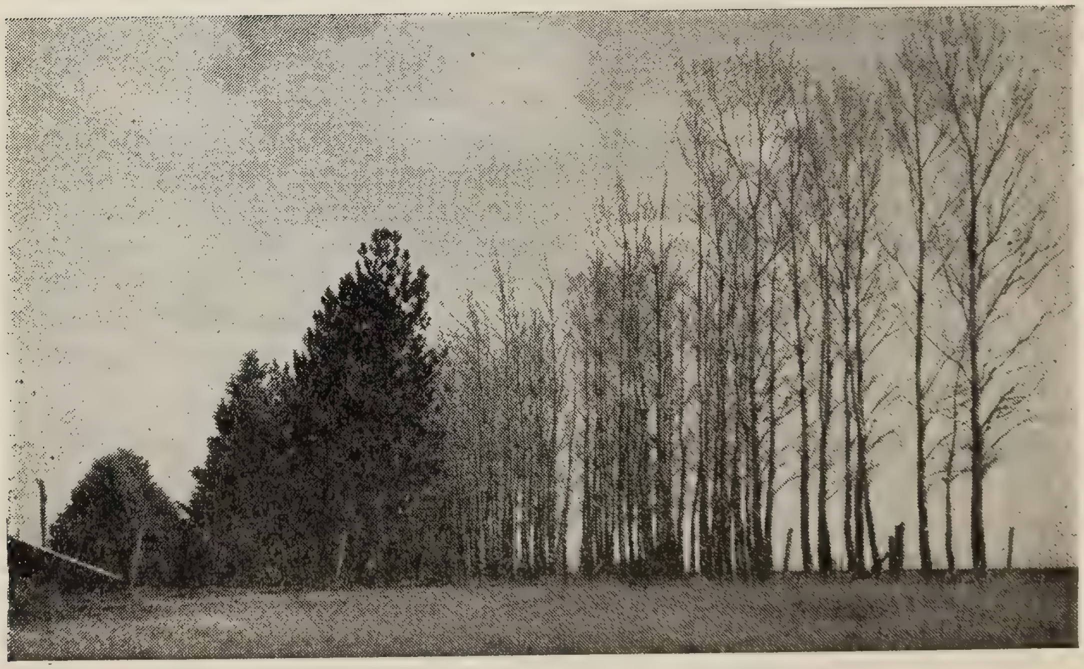
* Secure free Publication 623: "Tree Planting on the Prairies", from Forest Nursery Station, Indian Head, Saskatchewan.



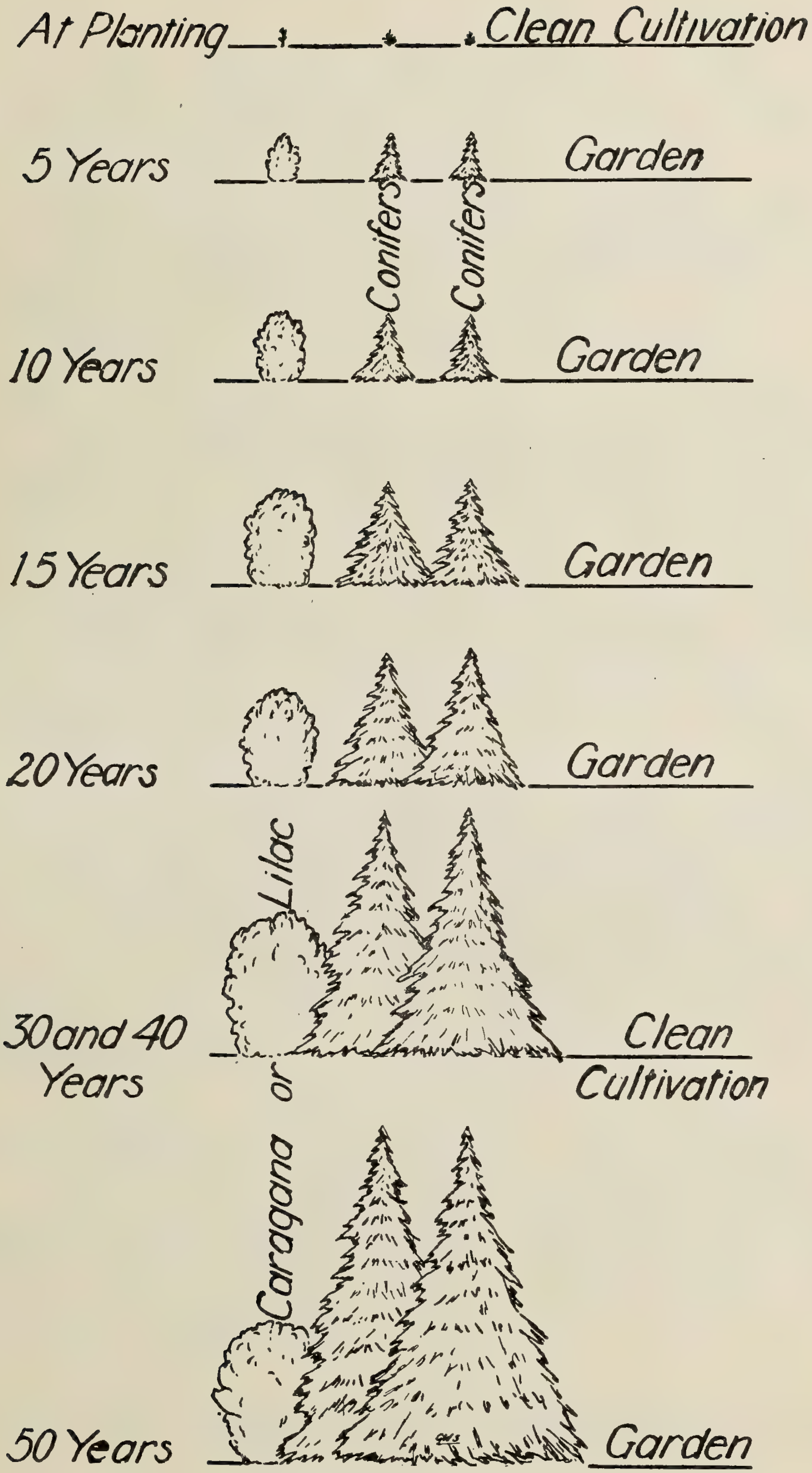
(*Courtesy of U.S. Soil Conservation Service*)

FIGURE XII—View of Shelterbelt from outside the farmstead.



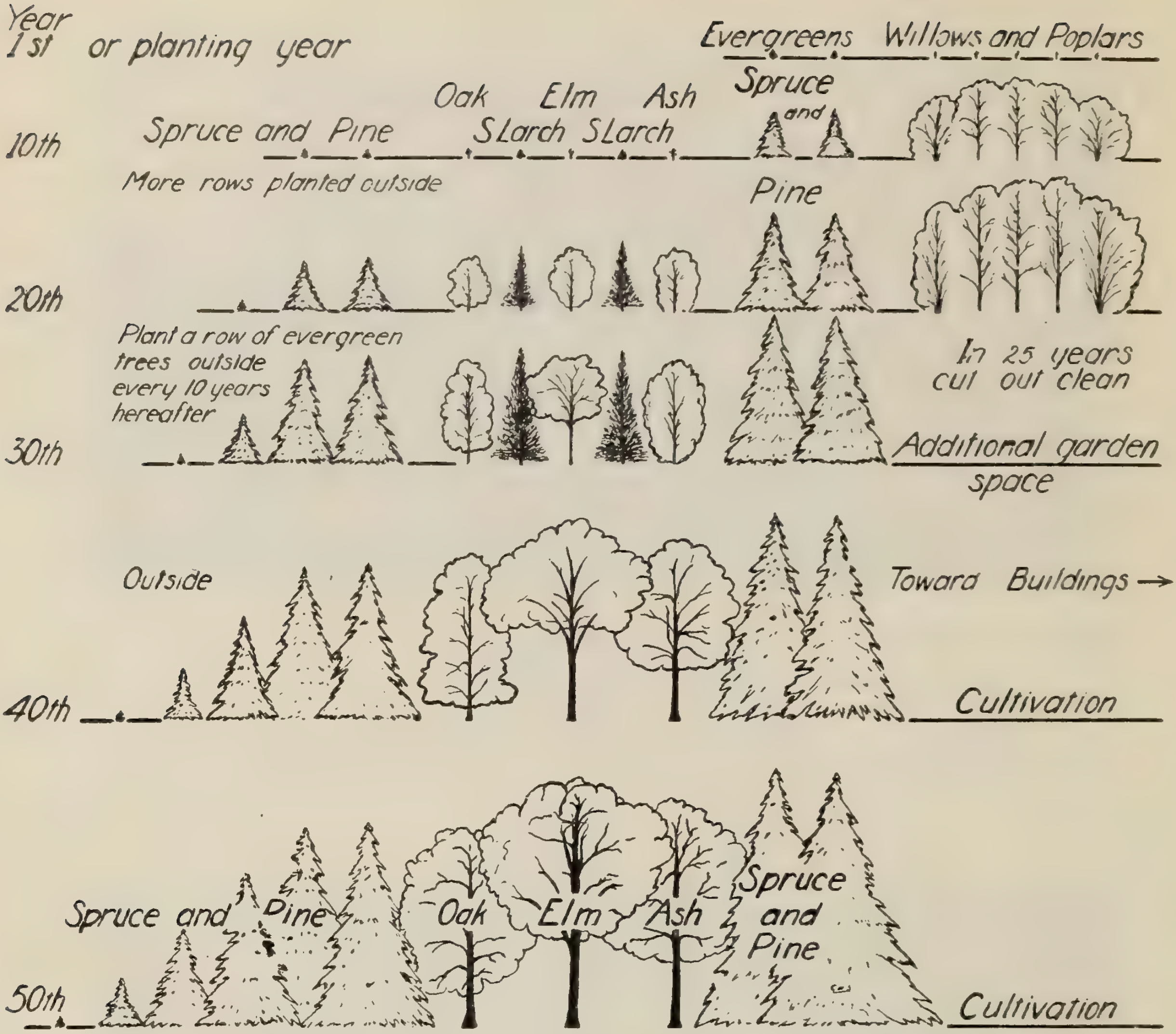
(*Courtesy of U.S. Soil Conservation Service*)

FIGURE XIII—Showing end view of the same shelterbelt as above.



(Scale 32 feet per inch)

FIGURE XIV—End view of a minimum shelterbelt showing growth progress through the years. Here the conifer (Evergreen) rows are 12 feet apart, while the outside hedge-row is 16 feet beyond.



(Scale: 44 feet per inch)

FIGURE XV—End view of a shelterbelt and woodlot combination showing a development programme by 10-year periods.

NOTE:—(1) The quick growing poplars and willows at the right would be cut out clean for fuel and fence posts during the first 25 years leaving space for expansion of the farmstead area and marginal cultivation.

(2) The larch (Tamarack) would provide lasting fence posts after 15 years growth. They should be cut out sparingly until the remaining trees completely shade the ground.

(3) Additional rows of trees are planted outward toward the left as desired.

(4) Such a shelterbelt would provide the desired upsweep of the wind over the tree tops.

off close without injury. Keep all the trees pruned to one leader to preserve their single trunks and to avoid heavy crotches.*

Fence your trees against live stock, and guard against damage by fire.

Basin Dyking

In the dryer regions, basin dyking for holding run-off water within the shelterbelt area is often practical and highly beneficial to the growth of the trees. Marginal cultivation will also help to conserve for the trees much needed moisture.

Trees for Special Conditions

In the south under irrigation or in other districts where the soil is water-logged, highly alkaline, or of heavy clay such species of trees as Green Ash, Pine and Poplar have not generally been as successful as Elm, Black Spruce and Cottonwood. Where Caragana is severely attacked by insect pests, Lilac or Tartarian Honeysuckle could be substituted. In the dryer areas of the south-eastern part of the Province, American Elm will survive only under the more favourable conditions. For dry, light, open soils Caragana and Pines are well adapted. Buffaloberry and Silverberry tolerate some alkali.

Search Out All Shelterbelt Information

To those who have had no experience with prairie tree planting, we would recommend that you search out all the information you can. Send for free bulletins to the Dominion Forest Nursery Station, Indian Head, Saskatchewan. They have a dozen or more helpful publications on tree planting and kindred subjects. Inquire also from successful growers in your own district. They can give you the benefit of their experience under similar conditions to your own. Then form your own conclusions and get started; don't put it off. The trees will grow while you sleep. Trees and shelterbelts about the prairie home is the answer to man's instinctive search for opulence, comfort and beauty.

Where to Secure Shelterbelt Trees

Free trees may be obtained under certain conditions by Western farmers for farm shelterbelt planting by applying *a year in advance* to the Forest Nursery Station, Indian Head, Saskatchewan, or by Alberta farmers by applying *before the end of January* to the Director of Forestry, Department of Lands and Mines, Government of Alberta, Edmonton.

The Home Grounds

Every home, no matter how humble can be made attractive by proper planting with trees, shrubs, vines, flowers and lawn. Yet there are still many homes without a tree or shrub about the place. This neglect is often due to the eroneous idea that beautification is expensive or that trees and shrubs will not grow. There is not one of us who is not responsible in some degree for making or marring the landscape. An interesting and beautiful outlook proves invaluable to the farm wife who spends most of her time in and about the home. Most individuals have a love for the beautiful in nature. To be surrounded by it, has a most refining and elevating effect. The homes we have built, the walks and drives we have located, the trees and shrubs we have planted and the beauty we have created about our homes will be ours in a sense they could not be if others had done it for us. Nothing holds children to their childhood home as their love of the beauty they have helped to create and care for. Happily, anyone may devote his interest and artistry in perfecting the beauty of some piece of ground. The rewards of our creative effort grow into the most precious source of joy and comfort in later years.

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* Send for free Publication: "Pruning, Thinning and Utilizing Trees in Farm Shelterbelts," from Dominion Forest Nursery Station, Indian Head, Saskatchewan.

Style of Landscape

In the country where there is so much freedom of thought and action, and where natural beauty and growth abound, the artificial style of landscape architecture is not in good taste. Formal or geometric shapes and forms should be avoided. Structural lines that are simple, dignified and natural are more appropriate. Straight lines or pleasing curves that serve some purpose are in good taste. Trees and shrubs are at their best when they are encouraged or allowed to take their most perfect natural forms, and grouped so as to present their greatest natural beauty. The design and plantings on the home grounds should harmonize with the natural features around them. A simple well built house with its surroundings simply and tastefully planted and neatly kept, is more attractive, is more enjoyed by its occupants, and adds more to the appearance of thrift, comfort and culture of the community than elaborate buildings without outside decoration or care. Success is not measured by quantity and cost, but by attractive simplicity and quality. The fundamental purpose of all the arts is to give pleasure to those who see or use that which is created.

The Plan

Here again, before any work is done, a plan must be decided upon. Don't be afraid to try your hand at it. Many an amateur has been able to produce most pleasing results. Follow the general rules and put your originality to work. Here is an opportunity for genuine self expression. The chances are good that the result will be satisfying to yourself and much admired by others.

Our objective is to paint a picture with forms and pigment of living things. The dwelling is the focal point of our picture.

Here are five basic principles for planning the home grounds:

(1) Provide a heavy tree background for the dwelling.

(2) Border the area with shrubs and trees.

(3) Frame the view for both inlook and outlook.

(4) Provide suitable foundation planting.

(5) Maintain an open foreground of turf.

But plantings must be visualized in the vertical (see Figure XVI, page 34) and not as we draw it on a ground plan as in Figure VII, page 24.

Background

Plant a backkground of trees that will eventually tower above the house. To lend variety, use trees of different forms and colour and texture. If some are spire shaped, and others round topped, with considerable variation in height, a more interesting skyline will be obtained. Use bold masses. Evergreens appear warmer in winter than deciduous trees, but use both in association with each other in the background planting. Well selected shrubs in front of them will help to blend them into their surroundings. The home appears more sheltered and snug if well supported with a bold background. Where an attractive barn or a windmill can be brought partially into the view so much the better. Endeavour, however, to obscure any undesirable views. The main outside shelterbelt will provide sufficient background for the other farm buildings.

Border Planting

Plant shrubs along either side of the lawn to indicate the borders. They need not be continuous. In fact it is best if interesting vistas can be maintained in a number of directions. Where possible, frame these openings with appropriate shrubs to draw attention to these views. The more windswept side of the lawn will require a heavier and more continuous shrub border planting than the sheltered side. In selecting shrubs strive to secure groups that blend but with interesting variety in size, shape and texture. Also try to secure an extended blooming season throughout the summer. Some will provide rich autumn colours, some colourful fruit or bark for winter decoration. Avoid scattering conspicuous plants like Golden Elder to various parts of a single view. They tend to dissipate attention. They should be used sparingly and for the purpose of attracting attention to some important part of the picture. All plantings should be subordinate to the whole picture. A few large trees may be placed singly

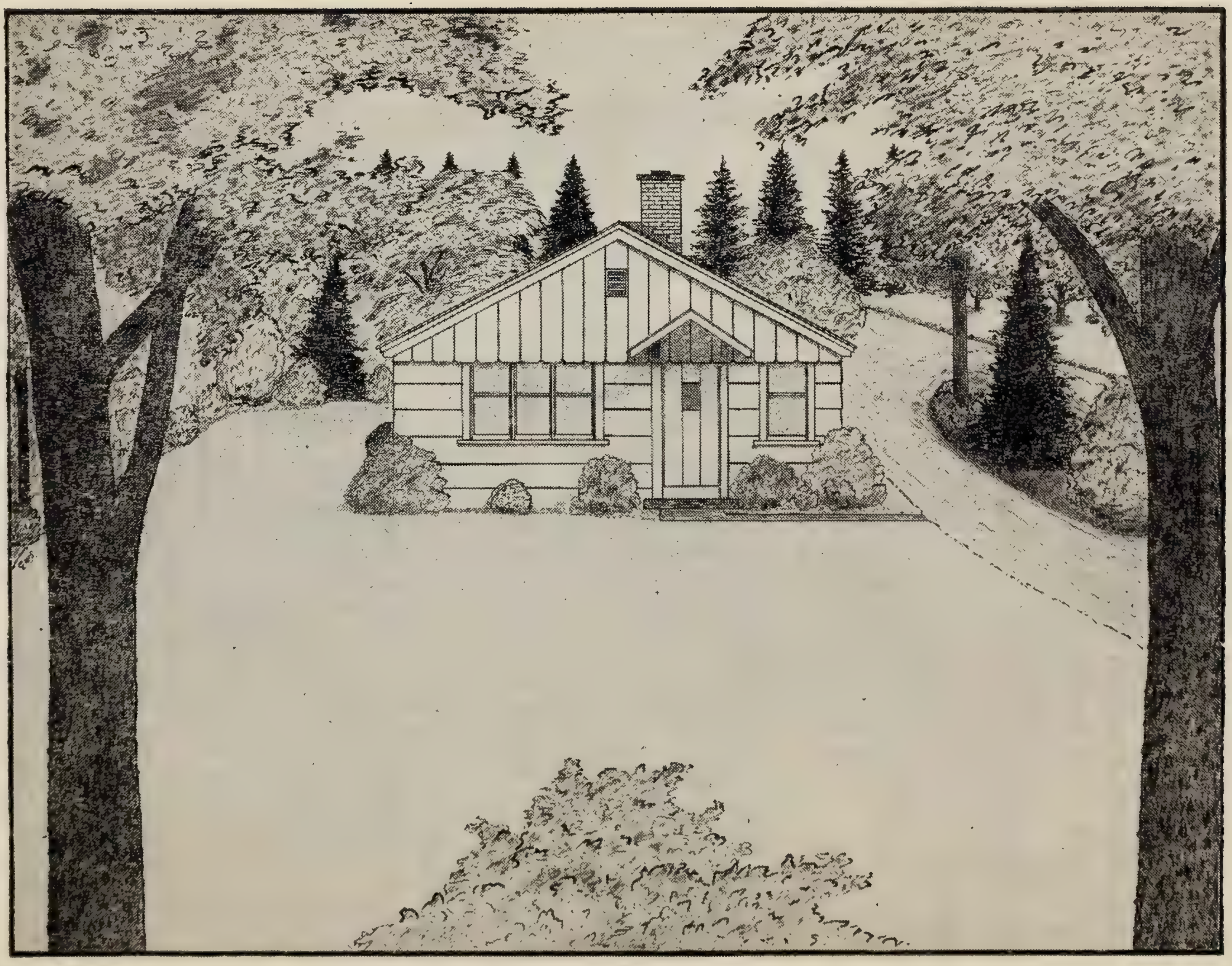

FIGURE XVI—Farm Home Grounds.

Of simple, natural, informal design, snug and restful, yet interesting, pleasing, attractive, dignified and withall, soul satisfying. A farm that has a reputation to live up to, usually maintains that standard in more ways than in beauty alone.

NOTE:—(1) Heavy tree background. (2) Border plantings.
(3) Framing the view. (4) Foundation plantings.

or in a group on one or both sides in the border. It is better not to have both sides exactly alike. They may balance for mass, but not necessarily for form. One large topped shade tree placed 30 to 50 feet toward the two o'clock sun from the house will subdue the glare and heat at the hottest time of the day. Even shadows on the lawn in front of windows have a cooling and soothing effect. Avoid trees so near the house that their branches overhang the roof. They encourage moss and decay of the shingles. The American (white) Elm is the ideal lawn shade tree, neither obstructing the view nor providing too dense shade for turf or plants beneath. Cottonwoods and Poplars are not desirable for planting in or adjacent to the lawn, as their shallow root systems are too competitive.

Hedges

The cheapest and the best fence or wall for the home grounds is the living hedge. It is more ornamental than any kind of fencing and does not require frequent renewal or painting. It gives itself a bright new coat each spring. In the old land where hedge-bound fields and gardens predominate they give an air of well being and contentment so satisfying to behold.

Hedges may screen out unwanted views, shut out trespassers or provide privacy for the outdoor living room. Sometimes a hedge, at a certain height, may serve to screen out an unsightly view below the line of vision and yet reveal the pleasant countryside beyond. On large grounds they are best used rather sparingly and for special features such as their form and trimness in adding variety to the landscape, or for the beauty of their foliage or bark, or left untrimmed as flowering hedges.

If you have attractive grounds do not obscure it with a hedge from view from the highway. Let the public share in the beauty you have helped create. Avoid hedges along walks and driveways; they accumulate snow drifts that block traffic. Nor should hedges come to a blind end. They should seem rather to lead from one object to another and terminate in some bold mass of shrubbery. Hedges require plenty of light on all sides for uniformly dense growth. It is a mistake to attempt growing occasional large trees over the hedge row.

In selecting the kind of plant for hedging, consider first the height you want your hedge, whether you will trim or leave untrimmed and the availability and cost of the planting material. Rapid growth is not a desirable feature for a trimmed hedge, as this will require excessive labour. The following are some of the more desirable kinds of hedging plants.

HEDGING PLANTS

Kind	Mature Height	Growth Rate	Hardiness	Advantages	Shortcomings
Native White Spruce	60′	Slow	Hardy	Evergreen. Annual trimming ample.	Insect Pests.
Common Caragana	18′	Fairly Fast	Very hardy	Drought resistant	Insect Pests.
Hungarian Lilac	10–12′	Medium	Hardy	Attractive foliage, non-suckering long season.	
Chinese Lilac	10–12′	Medium	Hardier	Non-suckering long season.	Duller foliage.
Common Lilac	10–12′	Medium	Hardiest	Plants available, long season.	Suckers freely.
Cotoneaster	5′	Medium	Fairly Hardy	Glossy foliage, dense.	Insect Pests in E. Canada
Pygmy Caragana	4′	Slow	Very Hardy	Drought-resistant, fine foliage.	Dull coloured foliage.
Shrubby Cinquefoil	3′	Slow	Very Hardy	Drought-resistant, long blooming season.	Late in leafing out.
Western Snowberry	2′	Slow	Very Hardy	Drought-resistant, Plants available.	Suckers freely.

Framing the View

While the background and border plantings will form part of the framing effect, particularly from within the lawn area, we now have reference more particularly to the view from the public highway toward the house. Along the front road, plant a few tall trees with high trunks and spreading tops about 50 or 60 feet apart to provide a general view of the house and most of the decorative portion of the surrounding grounds, through the opening between these large trees. This sort of framing the view is illustrated in Figure XVI, page 34, between the two large trees in the foreground. Here again the American Elm is ideal for this purpose. Mountain Ash may be used to good effect between wider spaced Elms, but they should not be allowed to obscure the view. The tall overhanging branches of the Elms reduce the excessive amount of sky within the view and has the effect of focusing attention to the home and its more intimate surroundings. It also gives the appearance of greater cosiness and completeness.

Foundation Planting

Foundation plantings agreeably blend the vertical lines of the house with the horizontal lines of the lawn surface. Allow a strip from three to ten feet wide around the house for foundation planting. Do not crowd walks too close to the house. Foundation plantings are most attractive if there is considerable variation in height and form. The bolder and more massive plants will be best at the house corners, with lower shrubs beneath the windows. Avoid a uniform hedge-like planting for this purpose. It is all the better to leave parts of the house foundation exposed to view between some of the shrubs. The basement windows of course must be kept unobstructed. Flowering plants may be planted among and in front of the shrubs of foundation plantings. Care must be exercised to secure varieties suitable for the various exposures close to buildings. Only extra hardy kinds are adapted for the more weather-beaten sides and corners. For the west and south side, select shrubs that endure the heat and glare of direct sunshine. Along the east may be planted some of the more desirable of the somewhat tender varieties. While for the north side, select varieties that are tolerant of shade. See page 42 for lists of shrubs suitable for these varied conditions. Plant shrubs from 24 to 30 inches from the house.

The Open Lawn

No part of our beautification programme will contribute more to the beauty of the home grounds than the turf. It provides the green restful and pleasing base and foreground for our picture. It should fit into the plan with natural, gracefully curving outline. A proper grading will drain the water away from the house, and from all parts of the lawn. Avoid steep banks. They become too dry for grass to thrive and it is difficult to mow such places. The surface need not be level; a gentle slope or a natural rolling surface is fully as attractive and more interesting. Any deposit of basement subsoil over the lawn area should be covered with several inches of fertile surface loam. Before seeding the lawn, see that it is well fertilized, well pulverized, all growth destroyed, well firmed and moist. The best time of the year to seed lawns is during the latter half of August if the soil is in good condition. At this time of the year dandelion seeds will have flown, and the approaching cooler weather of autumn is most favourable for the rapid development of a dense turf. The next best time of the year for seeding is about the middle of May if there is sufficient moisture. A good lawn seed mixture is one-half pound Red Top, one-half pound Kentucky Blue Grass and three pounds Creeping Red Fescue seed per 1,000 square feet for a small lawn. For larger areas a lower rate of seeding may be used to save expense. For areas of over 1,000 square yards, half of the above seeding rate would do but it will take longer before a dense turf is established.

Keep the centre of the lawn open and unobstructed. It is more inviting, looks better, is more useful for games, and will be easier to mow. Farm lawns are usually too large for all hand mowing. The regular farm haying mower may be used several times a year for the greater part of the area. Only a small portion next to the house need be kept to a higher finish. Dandelions and other lawn weeds can now be kept under control with a selective herbicide with little injury to the grass. To improve the vigour, density, and fineness of the turf, old, well-rotted manure applied each fall at freeze-up will help a great deal. Pulverize it as finely as possible and work as much of it into the grass as you can. Then in the spring any of the residue may be raked off. An occasional top dressing, from time to time, of artificial fertilizer will also prove beneficial, but it must be distributed evenly when the grass is dry to avoid burning it. Mixing the fertilizer with screened loam will facilitate even distribution. A green, smooth well kept lawn is a joy to behold.

Figure XVI, page 34, illustrates the structural features of the five main principles for beautifying the home grounds.

Flowers

Most housewives plant flowers somewhere. She might as well plant them in the shrub borders and assist in carrying out the design. Flowers may be used among and in front of the border shrubbery plantings. It is generally considered that herbaceous perennials are best adapted for farm grounds. They require less care than annuals. They bloom from year to year though considerably neglected on occasions. They are easily re-arranged and propagated by division when more are required. A judicious selection of varities will assure continuous bloom in your lawn borders from early spring to late autumn. Plant them in bold irregular masses along the borders of the lawn.

The following kinds of perennial flowering plants are particularly hardy and well adapted for the farm grounds: Monkshood; Gaillardia; Lily Umbellatum; Blue Flax; Scarlet Lychnis (maltesecross); Peonies; Iceland Poppy, Double Buttercup and Colombine.

Altogether your home may be made attractive yet dignified, restful yet alive and inviting, an asset to the family life and to the community, expressing character and personality that yield permanent satisfaction. To improve the home is to enrich the life. Let your children grow up among beautiful growing things.

Selecting Planting Material

In order to select wisely the planting material for our home grounds we must have some knowledge of the characteristics of the plants we wish to use. To the inexperienced this knowledge may appear difficult to acquire. It is not within the scope of this treatise to provide much horticultural information. Our interest here is confined largely to the general principles governing the structural features for beautifying the home grounds. Ornamental horticulture is a deep but interesting study. No one knows it all. But we can learn what we need to know for our own plantings if we seek diligently for the information.

Do not attempt to grow all the kinds that could be grown. Select at first only such few kinds as have proven reliable under conditions similar to your own.

You will learn by working with them and by observing the plantings of others.

Be patient, take your Time—"Rome was not built in a day."

You'll have a grand time learning, and before long your neighbours will consider you an authority before you realize it yourself.

Besides many private homes, there are public institutions in almost every part of the Province that present wonderful opportunities for studying the characteristics of plant specimens growing in their grounds.

Here are some of them:

Lethbridge —Dominion Experimental Farm, Galt Gardens—City Park.
Medicine Hat —City Parks.
Brooks —Provincial Horticultural Station.
Calgary —City Parks.
Olds —School of Agriculture.
Red Deer —Provincial Children's Hospital.
Lacombe —Dominion Experimental Station.
Stettler —Hospital Grounds.
Wetaskiwin —Memorial Park.
Edmonton —Parliament Grounds; Oliver Mental Institute; University of Alberta.
Vermilion —School of Agriculture.
Lloydminster —Public School Grounds.
Beaverlodge —Dominion Experimental Station.
Nursery station nearest you.

Visit some of these plantings several times during the summer. Observe and ask questions. Learn the size to which they will grow when mature and the space they will require in the plantation. Study their hardiness, their characteristic shapes, their good points and their short comings, and the purposes for which they are particularly adapted. Then you will know where to place them in your plan of your own proposed planting. Secure a free copy of "Alberta Horticultural Guide" from the Alberta Department of Agriculture. It lists about one hundred kinds of suitable trees and shrubs and indicates their mature height. This should be of great help to you.

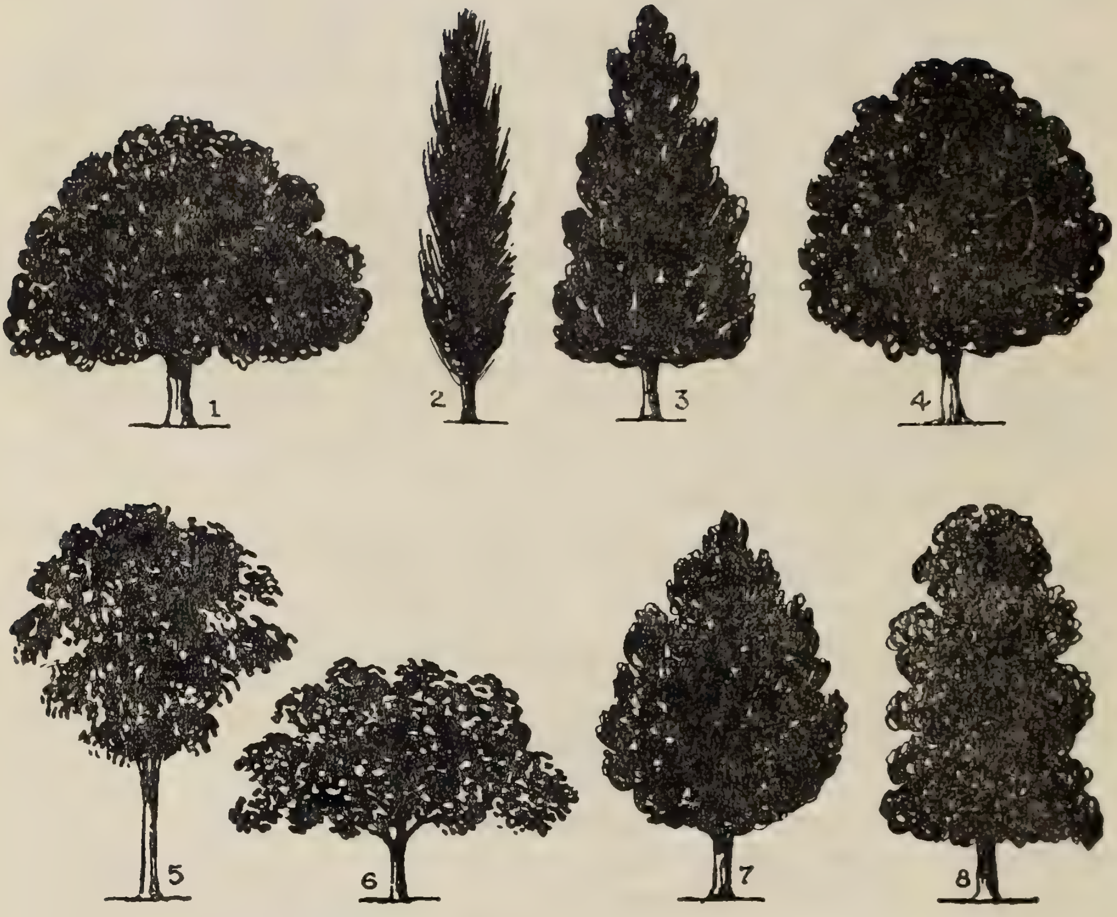

Figure XVII—Illustrating Deciduous Tree Forms.

(1) Apple.

(2) Lombardy Poplar (not hardy on the prairies).

(3) Birch.

(4) Box Elder or Manitoba Maple.

(5) American Elm.

(6) Hawthorn.

(7) Green Ash.

(8) Oak.

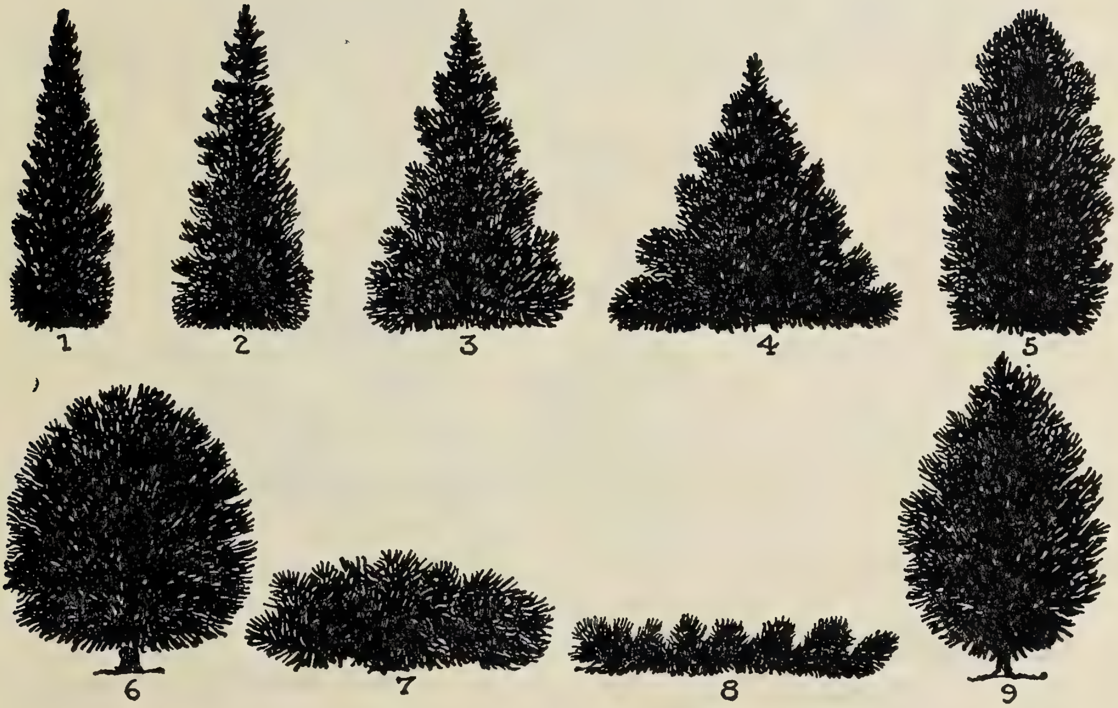

FIGURE XVIII—Evergreen Plant Forms.

(1) Pyramidal Cedar.

(2) White Cedar.

(3) Spruce.

(4) Pine.

(5) Rocky Mountain Juniper.

(6) Siberian Aborvitae (ware).

(7) Savin Juniper.

(8) Creeping Juniper.

(9) Japanese Yew.

It also lists as many hardy herbaceous perennials and rockery plants as well as fruit varieties for Alberta. If you wish to make a wider study of "Trees and Shrubs for Alberta" send for Bulletin No. 29, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Native trees and shrubs for home plantings can often be secured growing wild on your own farm. Indeed these blend best with country surroundings and good results can be obtained from their use alone. However, greater variation and interest could be achieved by adding some of the ornamentals offered by Commercial Nurseries.

Native Trees and Shrubs

With Mature Height.

White Spruce	60 ft.
Lodgepole Pine	60 ft.
Tamarac	60 ft.
Poplar and Cottonwood	50 ft.
Paper Birch	40 ft.
Mountain Ash	30 ft.
Chokecherry, Pin Cherry	18 ft.
Saskatoon	12 ft.
Buffaloberry	10 ft.
Highbush Cranberry	8 ft.
Redtwig Dogwood	6 ft.
Silverberry-Wolf Willow	5 ft.
Wild Currant and Gooseberry	4 ft.
Wild Rose	4 ft.
Shrubby Cinquefoil	3 ft.
Western Snowberry	2 ft.
Creeping Juniper	1-2 ft.
Bearberry	1 ft.

Hardiest Shrubs for Exposed Positions

Common Caragana	18 ft.
Tartarian Honeysuckle	10 ft.
Lilac	10 ft.
Peking Cotoneaster	5 ft.
Pygmy Caragana	3 ft.
Shrubby Cinquefoil	3 ft.
Western Snowberry	2 ft.

Shade Enduring Plants

Saskatoon	12 ft.
Highbush Cranberry	8 ft.
Dogwood	5 ft.
Currants	4-5 ft.
Ural False Spirea	5 ft.
Junipers	1-6 ft.
Ferns	2 ft.

Planting Arrangement and Distance Apart.

On general principle, plant the taller ornamentals at the back of the clumps or beds, with the smaller ones toward the front. The best distance apart is usually such that the full grown plants will barely touch without crowding. Planting too close together is the common failing of almost all planters. If you are inexperienced, it would be better to plant about twice as far apart as your judgment dictates.

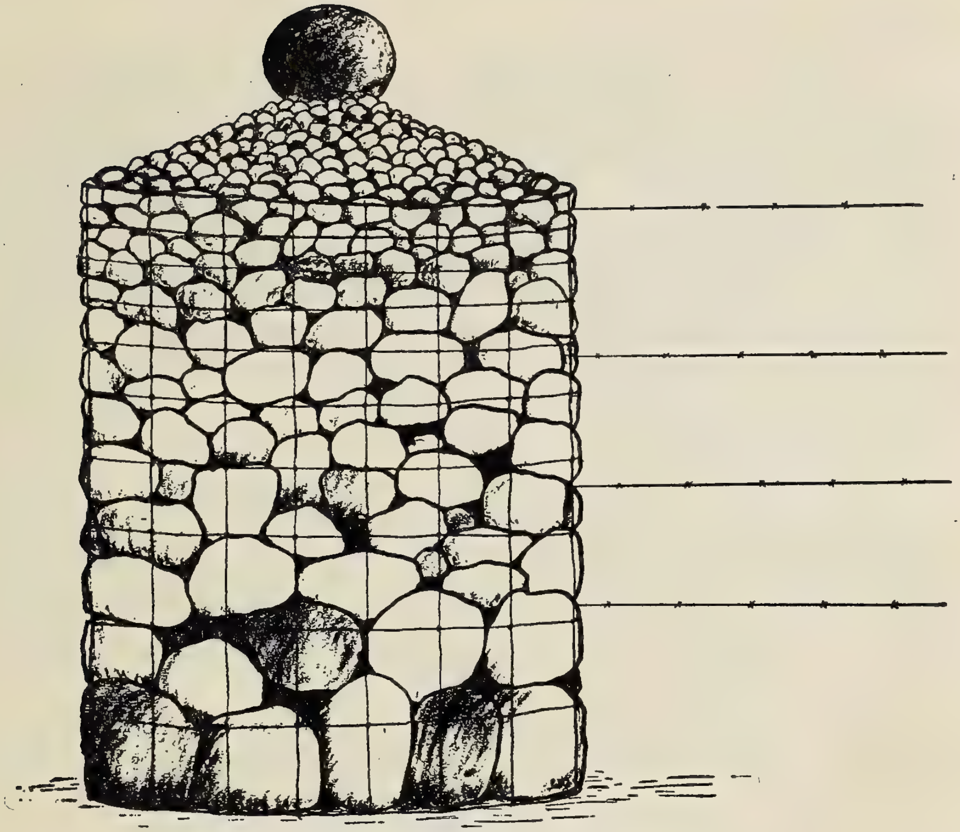

FIGURE XIX—Everlasting Corner Post.

A basket is made of a 16-foot length of woven-wire stock-fencing, circled around the corner fence post and the ends spliced together. Field rocks are laid into the basket, carefully keeping the form round and perpendicular. Always select the largest rocks but saving the roundest for the crown piece. For gate posts "point" out the exposed rocks with concrete, and cement the hinges and gate catch securely into the rockwork.

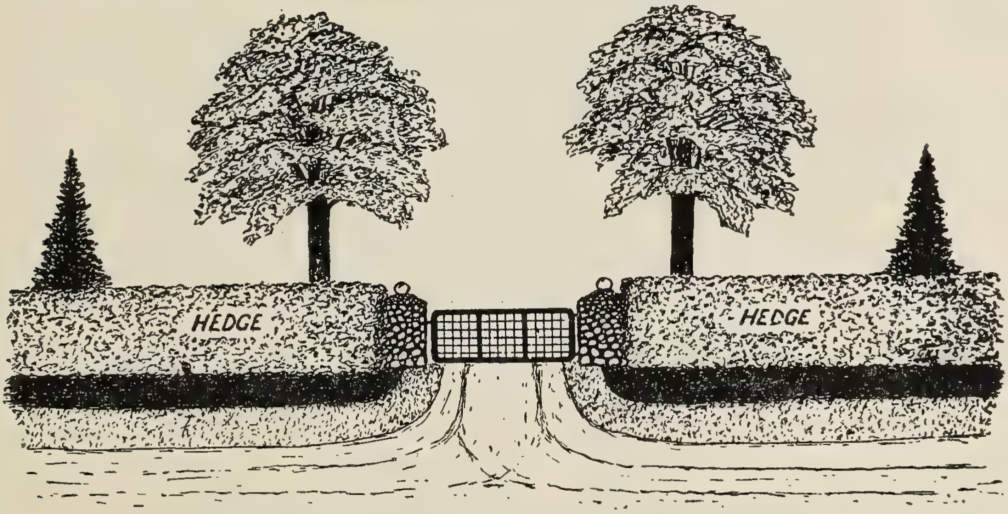

FIGURE XXI—An Attractive Farm Gateway.

It is well worthwhile to go to some pains in providing a distinctive gateway at the highway entrance to your farm. Let it reflect the character of your farm and be in keeping with its rural setting—substantial, dignified and artistic. There is much scope for your originality in this respect.

Roadside Improvement

In older sections of Canada we find along roadsides beautiful avenues of shade trees which have been planted by public spirited citizens. Such plantings are a grander monument to their memory than stone or marble. In many cases attractive results are obtained by preserving irregular groups of native trees and shrubs along the fence row or in adjoining fields. Accumulations of stones, rubbish and weeds could be cleaned up and the ground graded to a smooth contour and seeded to grass that could be mowed each year. If every land owner would make a start and do his share, the whole neighbourhood would soon become noted for its general attractive and thrifty appearance.

Before any permanent tree or shrub planting is done along roadways, consider carefully its effect upon the road for snowbanks, drainage, visibility of traffic at turns, and for possible conflict with telephone or power lines. Better plant well within your own property at a safe distance from the road where it cannot become a menace to public convenience or safety.

Fencing along the roadside is best when as inconspicuous as possible. Woven wire on metal posts painted green is the most agreeable.

School and Community Grounds

Where dependence is placed upon volunteer labour the greatest difficulty in the improvement of community grounds is the neglect that often follows initial effort. No work should be undertaken unless it is well done. It is better to undertake a little improvement and maintain it well, than to do much and neglect it afterwards. When the natural features are made as attractive as possible, it is time enough to add artificial planting. What is needed is some patriotic and energetic person with a real love for beauty to take the lead in organizing the project. But he needs the wholehearted co-operation of the community to bring it to success. Community support will teach children to respect what is done for their benefit. Nature study at school can do much to arouse appreciation of the wonders and beauty of the natural world, and of the necessity of some effort and restraint on their part in obtaining and preserving the things of comfort and beauty they are permitted to use.

Plenty of land is required so that legitimate play need not interfere with the plantings. In laying out the school grounds provide a separate area near the school for small children to play in, a larger one for the middle group and the largest for the more strenuous games. If the grounds are to be used for picnics in summer, a well treed, shady grove will be an asset. Shelter around the outside and decorative development within should be simpler and less extensive than for a farm home. Avoid delicate flowering and fruiting plants on school grounds as they are more liable to damage. Use only the hardiest plant material that requires little care. The main consideration is to have the plan adapted for the purpose and only such decorative development undertaken as may be maintained adequately. Much benefit can accrue to a community through pride in its community centre.

It is not possible in a brief and readable farmers' bulletin to discuss in great detail all the problems related to this subject. Much has been omitted for the sake of brevity. Inspiration is perhaps more needed than information. It is hoped, however, that sufficient has been included to stimulate interest and to supply a basis of understanding that farmers, in larger numbers, may make a start on their own initiative to improve their home surroundings. But inspiration is not enough: fulfilment also requires perspiration.

" A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

Acknowledgment

We are deeply indebted to Mr. E. C. Hallman, formerly of the Alberta Department of Agriculture, who prepared the original manuscript of "Farmstead Planning and Beautification" and who has given valuable assistance in its revision.

We are also indebted to Mr. George Shewchuk of the Alberta District Agriculturist Service for the drawings and other valued assistance.

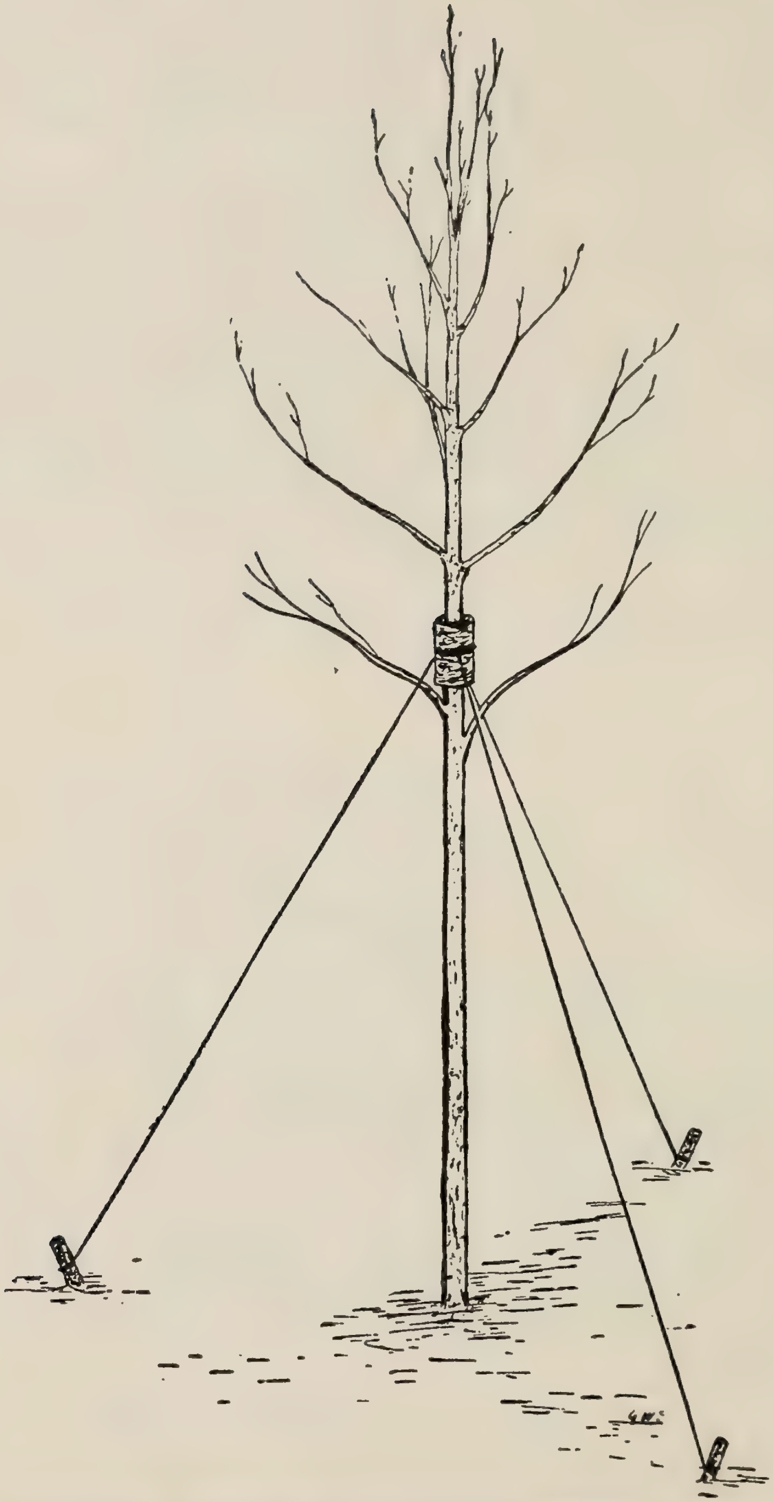

FIGURE XXI—Large Elm trees transplant readily. Prune the tops severly and support for a year or two if necessary. The cushioned collar illustrated here should be placed above or be suspended from the crotch of the lower branches. Be sure to remove all binding before any chance of injury occurs.

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